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FEBRUARY 25 - MARCH 2, 2016

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GRANITE VIEWS **JODY REESE**

Apple's Stand

When I first heard that the FBI was trying to force Apple to unlock one of its phones of the San Bernardino terrorists, my thought was, sounds fine to me. We need to know this information.

But after hearing more and seeing the debate play out, I've changed my mind.

What did it for me was that Apple doesn't have a way into the phone that they are withholding. The way the phones are designed (to prevent our data from being stolen with the phone), the information on the phone is encrypted with a key that is stored on the phone and only unlocked and thus unencrypted when the passcode is used. If someone enters the wrong passcode too many times (for example trying to guess what it might be) the data is wiped. This means that no company, like Apple, or no one, like the guy who steals your phone, or no government, like ours, can get access to a locked iPhone. Other smartphone makers have similar encryption of their phones. They too claim that even if they wanted to they can't open up locked phones.

Because of this, the FBI wants to force Apple, and we can assume other phone makers, to build an operating system that would let it bypass the security settings. And that's why I've changed my mind.

Forcing a company or person to develop software to break into a secure product, for whatever reason, seems a step too far. Some have argued that this backdoor would only be used in this case because it's about terrorism. But this case is actually pretty weak. The terrorists are all dead and no one (other than a close friend) is suspected of helping them.

Yes, I can come up with scenarios where I would want law enforcement to break into the phone. Scenarios where there is a ticking time bomb. But that means that Apple's key to unlock any phone would be a tool that all law enforcement had easy access to, and by definition that would mean it would be widely available. So basically that means the phones would not be secure. The real question comes down to this: Do we all want to give up securing our own information? This issue isn't just about phones. It's about all of our data and who gets to control access to it. Do we? Does the government? Does a criminal network?

While most of us have nothing to hide, our phones, cloud backups and computers have become our personal vaults. They hold our financial and personal data.

Some might even say they are an extension of our brains.

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ON THE COVER

12 Technically, the cover competitor is a hamster — more a champion of daytime napping than animal Olympics. But there are plenty of pets (including the hamster's cousin, the gerbil) that can be bred and raised, primped and groomed to be show animals. Find out what New Hampshire has to offer for pet shows and what it would take to make your cat, dog, cow or bunny a trophy winner.

ALSO ON THE COVER, We're counting down to the final days of voting for the Hippo's annual Best of poll. See page 3 for more on how to give props to your favorite people, places and things in New Hampshire. Also, there are two ways to have fun with wine this week. Take the whole family to LaBelle Winery for a day of kid-friendly activities (p. 26). Or enjoy an adults-only wine tasting benefit to warm up a cold winter's day (p. 36).

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VOTING ENDS FEBRUARY 29

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IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE THE BEST.

No national chains, please — this is about the people and places unique to southern New Hampshire. Voting will be conducted online only. Go to hippopress.com and look for the "Hippo Best of 2016" button to link to the survey. Online ballots must be completed by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 29. Only one online ballot will be accepted from each computer and only ballots with votes in at least 15 categories will be counted. Leap year means an extra day to vote!

NEWS & NOTES

Casinos and Medicaid

A casino bills gets put on hold and the fight for Medicaid expansion begins. The New Hampshire legislature has set its priorities for the session, which include addressing the opioid crisis and figuring out how to keep expanded Medicaid from expiring at the end of the year. But it seems this year's agenda may not include the perennial issue of expanded gambling. The Union Leader reported the Senate tabled SB 551, which would allow for one casino in Salem with up to 3,500 video machines and up to 160 table games. The move to table was done in an effort to round up the needed votes.

Meanwhile, the House began debating the finer points of Medicaid expansion. Republican leaders have come to the table with a plan to keep New Hampshire's 48,000 newly insured low-income people on their health plans after the federal government begins to draw back some of its funding. But, as NHPR reported, many fear the plan would cause private insurance premiums and hospital rates to rise as the cost would fall on hospitals and insurance companies rather than taxpayers. The federal government will still front 94 percent of the cost in 2018.

Pam Tucker

A new Republican contender has entered the race for New Hampshire's 1st Congressional District seat. State Rep. Pam Tucker of Greenland announced her candidacy in a press release. Tucker is serving her fourth term in the Statehouse and previously served as deputy speaker under former House Speaker Bill O'Brien. In her statement, Tucker said she would be "a nominee with a proven conservative record who can also draw a stark contrast between the establishment candidates of both parties on the issues." She faces incumbent Congressman Frank Guinta and businessman Dan Innis in the Sept. 13 primary.

Exit 4A

The state Department of Transportation will take over the management of the project to construct a new exit off Interstate 93 into Derry called Exit 4A. The Union Leader reported the deal approved by Derry and Londonderry would limit each town's cost to $5 million while the overall project may cost as much as $75 million. Residents still debate the lauded economic benefits of a new exit. The DOT will take over after an environmental impact study concludes in about 18 months.

Buried thorium

It sounds worse than it is. At least that's what developers of the old Osram Sylvania light-bulb factory in Manchester say, referring to radioactive material buried in a vault below what will be part of the parking lot for a proposed $60 million shopping center. The Union Leader reported the radioactive thorium was used to make high-intensity lights burn brighter. It's not known what isotope of thorium was used, but Dick Anagnost, the main developer, says it's "low-grade" and therefore harmless.

Merrimack dispensary

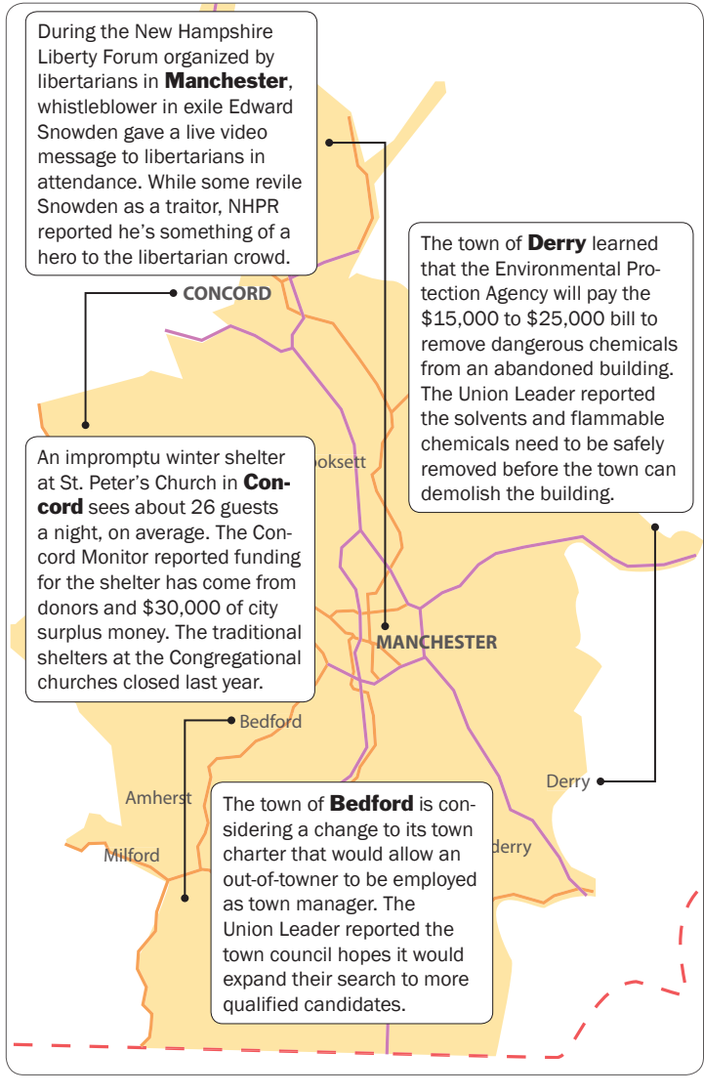
Plans for a medical marijuana dispensary in Merrimack changed locations, but the town has approved the new site as well. The Union Leader reported town planners voted unanimously in favor of a dispensary located in a strip mall known as Skyline Mall on Daniel Webster Highway. The original location was more expensive and the building not adequate for the needs of the dispensary, according to Prime ATC, the dispensary operator. A Catholic college across the street from the originally approved location also threatened legal action against Prime ATC. While it got unanimous approval, the chair of the planning board expressed reservations since the dispensary will now be sharing space with other tenants.

Biz tax change

The state Senate passed a bill that proponents say would make it easier for businesses to buy equipment from other businesses and improve the overall business climate. The Union Leader reported businesses would be allowed, under the bill, to depreciate up to $500,000 annually for a purchase rather than take a tax reduction over a longer period of time. The bill would also align state law with federal law, which changed last year in the budget agreement between President Obama and House Speaker Paul Ryan.

Bobcat hunt

Despite strong vocal opposition, the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department voted five to four to approve a seasonal bobcat hunt. NHPR reported the proposed measure motivated more than 5,000 people to leave comments during the public input period, most of which were against it. The bobcat season would allow up to 50 bobcats to be killed during a trapping season in December and a hunting season in January. A UNH study suggests the bobcat population is growing and will continue to grow even with a hunting season. Opponents say there's no need to hunt bobcats because they self-regulate their population and hunters want the animals for their lucrative furs.



Addiction coverage

A state probe into whether insurance companies are covering addiction treatment services as required by law unveiled some preliminary findings at a recent meeting. NHPR reported the New Hampshire Insurance Department has found inconsistencies between insurance companies in how much they pay for services, but Insurance Department officials say it's too early to call those inconsistencies noncompliance with federal law. Of the 11,650 claims for opioid treatment between January and October, denial rates ranged from 9.5 percent to 28.3 percent.

Correction

In the Hippo's Feb. 18 summer camp guide, the information listed for Studio 550's summer art camps should have said that Studio 550 (550 Elm St., Manchester) will host two camps: Travel the World with Art for ages 6 through 10 runs Monday, Aug. 1, through Friday, Aug. 5. Book Arts, Pottery and Drawing for ages 10 through 15 runs Monday, Aug. 8, through Friday, Aug. 12. Each camp day consists of standalone workshops with different projects. Campers can sign up for individual workshops or stay for the full day, which runs from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Workshops range from $15 to $35 each. The full week with all workshops is $255. Call 232-5597 or visit 550arts.com.

BEST WEEK

DINER LADY

Local woman Linda Philibert enjoyed her 15 minutes of fame on the Internet and in late night television after a Union Leader photograph showing her seemingly ignoring a media scrum around then-presidential candidate Carly Fiorina at a Manchester diner made the rounds. The Concord Monitor reported Philibert says she was not ignoring the candidate but that didn't stop an enterprising photoshopper from placing the stoic image of Philibert in humorous juxtapositions like Edward Hopper's famous "Nighthawks" painting or Leonardo Da Vinci's "Last Supper." *Late Show* host Stephen Colbert showed some of the memes on his show.

WORST WEEK

MOOSE

The leader of a multi-year study on moose populations expects greater calf mortality this spring. The Union Leader reported that moose are not yet a threatened or endangered species, but their future in New Hampshire is uncertain. The study hopes to show what is making life difficult for moose in New Hampshire and surrounding states where similar studies are being done. Researchers already found a correlation between winter tick infestation and population declines in northern parts of the state. Researchers have also suggested that deer populations may need to be more aggressively managed to ensure moose survival.

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Changing police work

Trading handcuffs for health care

By Ryan Lessard
news@hippopress.com

As New Hampshire cities and towns look for new ways to deal with the state's drug problem, some are looking at programs recently launched in neighboring states, prompting debate as to how involved law enforcement should be in leading addicts toward recovery.

Gloucester model

Many of the new ways police are dealing with the drug crisis in the region are coming from New Hampshire's neighbor to the south: Massachusetts.

The Gloucester ANGEL Initiative is among the better-known programs — and perhaps more controversial — for essentially offering amnesty from arrest for any addict who turns himself in at a police station, surrenders his drugs and asks for help.

Spokesperson John Guilfoil says police departments in the region and beyond have seen their appetites diminish for continuing to arrest repeat offenders who have drug problems. They watch the same trajectory unfold over and over, often with the addict ending up dead.

"Police just got sick of it," Guilfoil said.

The program launched last summer, and while it may be working for Gloucester, local law enforcement officers who've looked into it aren't convinced it will work.

"We've talked about it pretty extensively," said Deputy Chief Michael Carignan of the Nashua police department. "We don't feel that the Gloucester model is one that we would support."

Carignan says New Hampshire doesn't have the treatment infrastructure available to handle the demand yet. Plus, he said, it may not be legal to let someone off on a possession charge.

Manchester Police Chief Nick Willard agrees.

"Why would you invite somebody to come into a police station where he would otherwise be committing a crime by saying, 'Come turn your drugs in?'" Willard said. "I think it's a slippery slope."

Willard says it would be an inequitable application of the law if an officer decides to direct an addict in possession of illegal substances to treatment and later in the day arrest an alcoholic for a DWI.

Tym Rourke, the chair of the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Substance Abuse, says there's a growing recognition in law enforcement that efforts need to be made on the demand side of the drug trade and that addiction is a disease. But there's still plenty of disagreement on how to go about it.

Rourke says Willard's concern about the slippery slope is fair.

"I can't speak for the law enforcement community, but I don't have the sense that there's a general consensus in the law enforcement community about the Gloucester model as a universally acceptable deployed strategy," Rourke said. "Even in Massachusetts I have heard questions around whether or not the extent to which Gloucester is taking their model is really legally allowed."

Putting aside the legal concerns over possession, Concord Police Chief Bradley Osgood thinks Gloucester is doing a good job of helping addicts. He says the biggest barrier here is the availability of treatment.

Arlington model

Around the same time Gloucester kicked off its new program, the police department in Arlington, Massachusetts, started a program of its own. The Arlington Outreach Initiative doesn't invite addicts to turn themselves in. Instead, detectives compile data on known addicts and hand the list of names and addresses to a social worker partnered with the police station. The social worker then knocks on doors and offers help getting the addicts into treatment.

Carignan in Nashua thinks the problem with a program like Arlington's is twofold. He says New Hampshire doesn't have enough social workers to handle the workload in the state, if the program were replicated in each police department, and using confidential police info to track down these addicts may seem proactive, but Carignan thinks it may violate privacy laws.

New Hampshire models

Meanwhile, Laconia police have budgeted one of their officers to be a "prevention enforcement treatment coordinator," tasked with connecting overdose victims and their families with treatment resources. And in Manchester, work on a new full-service 24/7 recovery center, led by Hope for New Hampshire Recovery, in the heart of the city is under way. Willard hopes this would serve to separate law enforcement from the social services traditionally tasked with providing treatment.

"I think in the future this is going to be the model [for Manchester]. It's not going to be the Gloucester model. We're going to cut law enforcement right out," Willard said.

He says he's also not willing to take an officer away from regular public safety duties to work full-time on helping addicts, like Laconia is doing.

Carignan doesn't think Nashua is getting a large recovery center like what Manchester is planning any time soon. But he says his department is active in the drug court and Keystone Hall, the area recovery and treatment center.

Osgood says Concord is missing 15 percent of its police force, so he also can't dedicate police officers to focus on treatment services.

"I'm struggling to staff just a regular day and evening shift," Osgood said.

He said Hope for New Hampshire Recovery is poised to set up a recovery center in Concord as well and thinks that may cut police out of the equation like in Manchester.

What about PAARI?

While many local police are resistant to adopting programs that would represent radical change in policy, there is a supportive program gaining steam in the Bay State and spreading into other parts of the country, including New Hampshire. The Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative, or PAARI (pronounced parry), has grown rapidly since its inception last year, according to spokesperson John Guilfoil. He says several Massachusetts communities joined, and it has since spread to 18 other states.

It began as a partnership between Gloucester, Massachusetts, Police Chief Leonard Campanello and prominent Boston businessman John Rosenthal. The program is meant to provide members with informational resources on treatment center availability and police best practices, according to Guilfoil.

He says many people confuse PAARI with the Gloucester ANGEL Initiative. But while they share the same key players — its co-founder is Campanello, and Chief Frederick Ryan of Arlington is a board member — they are two different things. PAARI is not a model for departments, but a support network for law enforcement officers who want to do more to tackle the demand side of the drug crisis.

The Lakes Region town of Moultonborough is the first community in New Hampshire to join PAARI. So far, Moultonborough Police Chief Leonard Wetherbee said, it's been working well.

Wetherbee says he is familiar with the new models in Massachusetts, having been the chief of police at Concord, Mass., for 17 years and personally knowing Ryan.

"I had many conversations with [Ryan] about [PAARI] and exactly what it was, what it brought to the table. And what it *wasn't* is probably what sold me most on joining," Wetherbee said.

He says there are no strings attached to joining.

"A lot of people think that by joining PAARI, you're abandoning traditional law enforcement as far as dealing with this issue, and that's not correct," Wetherbee said. "These treatment centers who have also become affiliated with PAARI also have scholarships. They make beds available even if you don't have insurance."

Beer bills

Upping the ante for wine and craft beer

By Ryan Lessard
news@hippopress.com

State Rep. Adam Schroadter isn't trying to get people extra drunk. He just wants New Hampshire's laws to allow rare, high-end specialty beers that happen to have higher alcohol content than is currently allowed.

"They're not cheap beers. They're not something people are binge drinking. It's sort of like a fine wine, a connoisseur-type product," Schroadter said. "There is clearly a goal that New Hampshire be the one in the region that is first if you're looking to buy [liquor], but we're the last state that people think of when they think where are they going to go buy specialty beer."

There's been progress in changing the state's laws concerning beer, wine and liquor, which makes it easier for breweries of all sizes, wineries and distilleries to produce and bring products to market, but some lawmakers say there's still plenty of work left to do to help producers, retailers and restaurants.

Schroadter, a Republican from Newmarket, got into politics after becoming the proprietor of a bar and helping start the local farmers market. He originally planned to lease the Stone Church Music Club, but after tenants disappeared due in part to overburdensome regulations, Schroadter says, he was inspired to make some changes.

One of his first bills successfully raised the legal alcohol limit in beer from 6 to 12 percent. Now he's co-sponsoring a bill that would raise the legal limit in the state's defi-

nition of "specialty beer" to 21 percent.

"It was a big step forward, but the job's not done," Schroadter said.

In addition to specialty beer, there's a bill that would create a license for "beer specialty," sponsored by Rep. Keith Murphy, the owner of Murphy's Tavern in Manchester. The license would be for retail operations, the primary purpose for which would be the sale of beer. In the current licensing structure, Schroadter says retail businesses are burdened by requirements to sell non-beer items.

Burt Bingel, the owner of Burt's Better Beers in Hooksett, is in favor of the bill. He says he wouldn't necessarily stop selling food, but he'd like to have the choice as to which items he stocks. Bingel says some have expressed concerns in the Statehouse that the bill would create food deserts in parts of the state if stores decide to remove basic food items from their shelves, like bread and milk.

Another bill Murphy has sponsored and Schroadter has co-sponsored would allow for direct shipments of more than 20 barrels of beer to licensees or consumers. Murphy says this would cut out the beer distributors, who have a de facto monopoly right now, by allowing importers and out-of-state brewers to drive up small batches of beer without middlemen or high commission fees. Right now, direct shipping is allowed for only wine

and liquor.

A number of bills in the House would further lower license fees for wineries, exempt wine sample fees from the meals tax and create a study committee looking into lowering the sale fees of local wine. Finally, a bill passed by the Senate (SB 306) would allow for the sampling of beer and wine at farmers markets. The legislature recently made the sale of those items legal at farmers markets but, Schroadter said sampling was still not allowed. It's been his experience that making these changes happen in baby steps.

The Senate also passed pills that would classify fermented pear juice as hard cider and allow liquor sales in stadium box seating with a special license.

Lending a hand

Area restaurants rally to support Mint Bistro

By Allie Ginwala
aginwala@hippopress.com

On Monday, Feb. 15, a water pipe burst in an apartment above Mint Bistro on Elm Street in Manchester, flooding the restaurant and causing severe damage to the ceiling and floor. Initially hoping to reopen later that week, owner Tim Baines was told the restaurant would need to be closed for three to four weeks.

"At the time he thought it would be open on Friday, and then once the building inspector came they found out the damage was much more extensive," said Jeffrey Paige, co-owner of Cotton Restaurant, who spoke with Baines shortly after the pipe burst.

With the tentative reopening set for March 7, many of the employees won't receive their full pay until the insurance claim is settled. Wanting to help Mint's employees during the weeks of wage uncertainty, Paige immediately went to work on fundraising efforts to help support the staff at Mint Bistro.

From Friday, Feb. 26, to Monday, Feb. 29, Cotton will serve a dinner menu featuring wine, cocktails, appetizers, salads and entrees and donate the proceeds to the Mint staff. In addition, Just Like Mom's Pastries in Weare created and donated a special Mint dessert, the proceeds of which will go to the employees.

Cotton will also host a benefit raffle through March 6. For $10 a ticket, folks are entered to win $50 gift certificates from The Hanover Street Chophouse, Fratello's Italian Grille, KC's Rib Shack, The Copper Door, Michael Buckley Restaurant Group, Canoe, The Foundry, Republic, Campo Enoteca, Veranda Martini Bar and Grille and Cotton. Two winners will receive one gift certificate from each restaurant.

"I have a lot of really good friends in the business and everyone was without hesitation to help a friend out," Paige said. "All the people I called late that night … I said, 'I need help' and everyone said, 'Absolutely.' It's a good restaurant community in the greater Manchester area."

The final fundraising component is a GoFundMe page (gofundme.com/qgqc2uak) that Paige said gives those who can't make it out to Cotton the chance to help out. Less than 24 hours after it was posted, the page had seen $2,260 raised.

"It really has come as a shock to see how the community has embraced Mint Bistro," Baines said. "[I'm] just overwhelmed with the amount of people reaching out."

Baines said that after five days of drying out the space, a moving company was set to take out the bistro's furniture before beginning work on the roof and flooring..

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NEWS & NOTES Q&A

Funny business

Parent encourages kids to join circus

Brian Miron of Bedford is a father of two kids who attended the Pine Hill Waldorf School in Wilton, which features a phys ed program based on circus arts. Now, Miron is helping to bring new life into an organization called Flying Gravity Circus (flyinggravitycircus.com), which will become a larger nonprofit with the goal of offering circus training to young people. Miron will be one of the board members.

Q: ***When did you first hear about the unique physical education program at the Pine Hill Waldorf School?***

It was shortly after we moved to the area. We moved here about 15 years ago when we had a 2-year-old and another child on the way. Shortly thereafter we started looking at schools, preschools for kindergarten programs and elementary programs for our kids. As soon as they were old enough to go to school, we asked around and really word of mouth led us to take a look at Pine Hill. … It was like being struck by lightning. I loved it the moment I stepped inside the door. I remember … peeking into the auditorium and seeing kids juggling balls, juggling clubs. Even little ones, juggling … riding unicycles, some walking a tightwire. … What I really liked about Pine Hill the more I found out about it is that it's not just about academics and providing the academic curriculum that is required for kids that age. They spend a lot of time on nurturing the kids' imagination, fostering creativity and [their] artistic side.

What was it about a circus program that drew you in?

Seeing the kids do these things really sent a message that this school is different and its focus on the imagination and artistic side is really important. The woman who ran the program at the time — her name is Jackie Davis — she ran it for like 20 years. Incidentally, she went to get her master's degree at Harvard. … At first I thought, 'Wow, this circus is really cool.' But … I learned that it's not just cool. The thing with the circus program … it's designed to be cooperative. There's no winners, there's no losers. It's inclusive and everyone is involved. Kids end up helping one another, teaching one another. … Fundamentally, the one thing that really sold me about the circus is that it is very beneficial for esteem-building. Take a look at juggling. Juggling is tricky. … It's the process. They try it, and don't do it, try it and don't do it, and then boom, they can do it. The sense of accomplishment that is generated by working and working and working at something and … you're ultimately able to do it, that sense of achievement, you see it on these children's faces.

Courtesy photo.

Do you have any professional experience in a circus?

None whatsoever. It was surprising to see how many actually do in the community of Wilton and the surrounding towns in part because of literally two decades of development through Pine Hill, through the high school … and through Flying Gravity Circus, which is a youth performing circus group that Jackie Davis had started up and is now being started as a nonprofit.

What do you envision the mission of the new nonprofit to be?

We've got together a board of about 10 other individuals who are going to help ... run the program. Jon [Roitman, the artistic director] is going to be taking something like 30 to 40 students, high-school and middle-school kids and providing quality circus training to these kids on a weekly basis. They'll be learning all kinds of new skills. They will be expanding their ability to perform and create the show and then actually staging and performing shows across southern New Hampshire, actually even going into Maine and Massachusetts. … There will be half a dozen shows performed, if not more.

When is this program launching?

We filed as a corporation just a few weeks ago. … We've got applications out for students to apply to join the Flying Gravity Circus troupe.

— *Ryan Lessard*

Five favorites

Favorite Book: *Anne of Green Gables*
Favorite Movie: *Star Wars*
Favorite Musician: Alanis Morissette
Favorite Food: Steak and potatoes
Favorite Thing About NH: The sunrises and the landscape

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

Civic engagement

New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation primary saw record voter turnout this year. The Union Leader reported 542,459 ballots were cast, beating the previous record of 529,711 ballots in 2008. This year's primary saw record turnout among Republican voters in particular (287,683), while Democratic turnout had fallen by more than 30,000 ballots fewer than the Democratic record in 2008. According to the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, the youth turnout, defined as 18- to 29-year-olds, tied the tremendous youth turnout rate of 2008, which was 43 percent. It also increased its share of the overall voter pool by 1 percent over 2008, from 16 to 17 percent. The youth vote was also driven largely by Republicans.

QOL Score: +1

Comment: *While Bernie Sanders got the most youth votes of any single candidate, Republican youth played a big part in driving the Donald Trump vote.*

Jail staffing

The Rockingham County Department of Corrections is purportedly suffering a shortage of staff. NH1 News reported the legal team defending a man charged with setting fire to a Raymond home told a judge that they've been unable to meet with their client in person due to the limited schedule allowed by diminished corrections crew. Weekend and night visits are not available, according to the lawyers for Gregory Bruno.

QOL Score: -1

Comment: *The lawyers also told the judge that they had privacy and cost concerns with communicating via Skype.*

Bad winter for seasonal businesses, events

The occasional 50-degree weather we've been having this February might be great for those of us who have long commutes or hate the cold, but it's not so cool for seasonal business like local ski resorts and, according to NHPR, businesses tied to snowmobiles and logging. The snow-free weather also caused the cancellation of a dog sled race in the North Country, scheduled to happen last weekend.

QOL Score: -1

Comment: *QOL is probably not the only one with mixed feelings about this weird winter.*

Healthy coffee

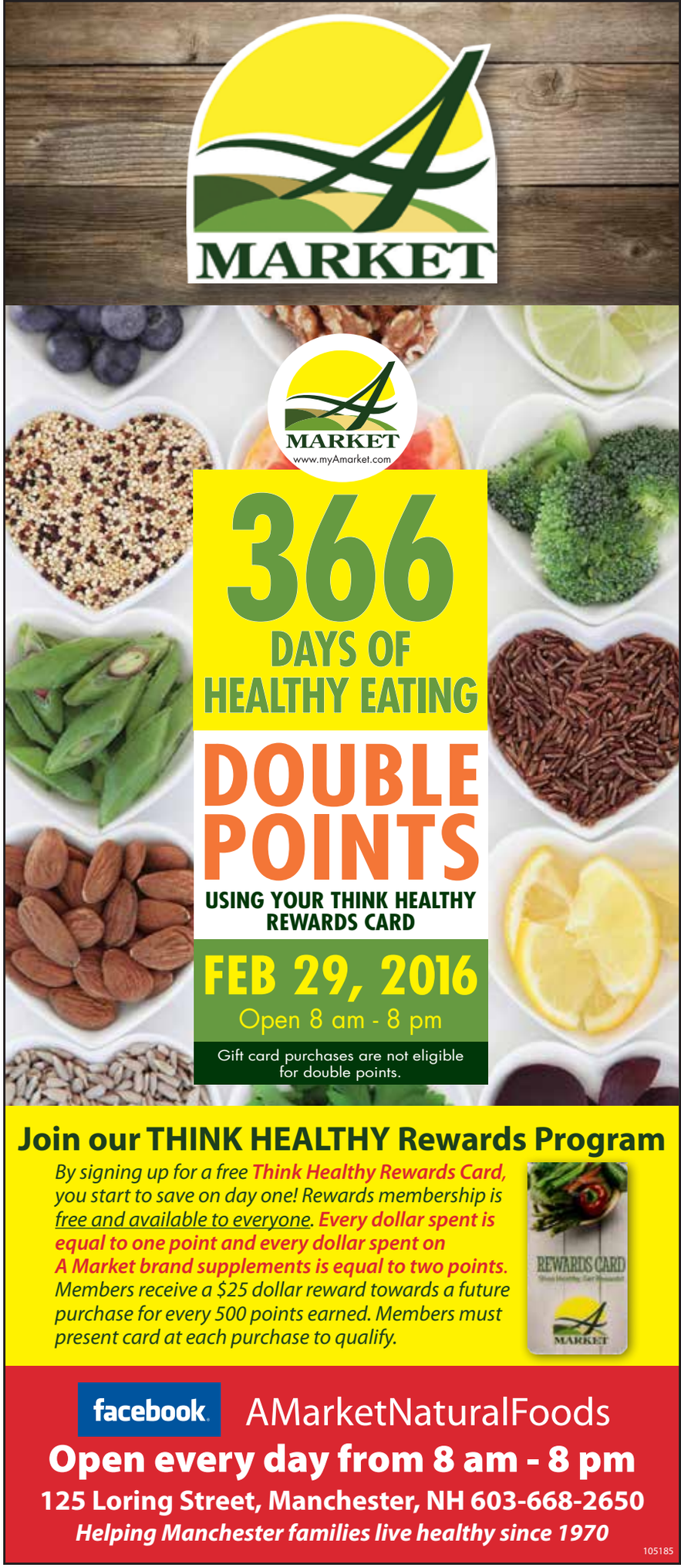
University of New Hampshire chemist and professor Glen Miller has designed a way to infuse coffee beans with a resveratrol that can be absorbed by the human body, according to the Union Leader. Miller has been interested in the study of resveratrol, found in the skins of red grapes, since the 1990s, when scientists began exploring France's low rate of coronary heart disease. He partnered with New England Innovations Center in Portsmouth to create CoffVee, a brand that offers the same heart-healthy benefits as a glass of red wine (but, of course, without alcohol), launching the company Dec. 8 and since selling almost 10,000 bags.

QOL Score: +1

Comment: *Does that mean three cups of coffee is OK now?*

QOL score: 64
Net change: 0
QOL this week: 64

What's affecting your Quality of Life here in New Hampshire? Let us know at news@hippopress.com.



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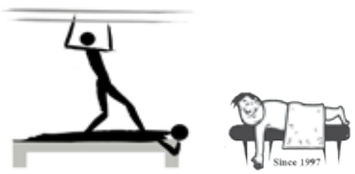

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Celtics are in stretch run for the spring playoffs

With the All-Star game in the books, the Celtics are in the stretch run, with only 25 games left before the second season begins. Aside from a 1-4 start, a big 1-7 lapse that started as 2015 was ending, and blowing by my count an astonishing 14 games after having double leads, it's been a most enjoyable ride. Now the sights are set on finishing strong to grab home court in at least one playoff round. Let's take a look at what lies ahead.

Where They Stand: After demolishing Denver 121-101 on Sunday, they're 33-24. If they continue their 57.9 winning percentage they'll will win 48 games. In November I said 45 and a playoff win would make the season a success. After I had a chance to see them play over the first month, I said they'd win 50 games. And while they need to pick up the pace a bit, I'll stand by that prediction.

The Schedule: They have 11 games left against sub-.500 teams and nine others with teams below them in the standings. They have a five-game home stand starting on Thursday, and 14 of the last 25 are at home, all of which is favorable.

Yardstick Games: They face Oak City at home, the Clippers, Cavs and Golden State on the road along with a home and away mini-series with first-place Toronto, who's 4.5 ahead of them in the Atlantic Division. How they do in those will be an indicator of how tough an out they'll be in the playoffs.

One Thing I Don't Like: It may be because they're young, but they've played like they think they're better than they are at times. Friday's skunking in Utah was one of them. When they lost seven of eight starting at the end of the year by blowing several big leads in really bad losses to the Lakers, Nets, Pistons and Knicks was the big one. Fortunately they're resilient and got back to business soon after that.

Here's Another One: It seems everyone has carte blanche to launch threes whenever. If you're Golden State and shooting an astonishing 42 percent from downtown it's OK. But they're a fifth-worst-in-the-NBA 33.6 percent and have seven guys at a putrid 28.8 percent or worse from out there. I trace *all* of those 14 winnable loses mentioned earlier to an overreliance on threes where they went ice cold and then didn't take it inside for easier shots and a chance to get to the line. This has been a killer. What they need to do is take away the keys to the three for **Jared Sullinger**, **Amir Johnson** and **Evan Turner**, who are terrible at it. Ditto for young'ns **James Young** and **RJ Harris**, who fired away at .238 and .235 when they have played. Yes, it's supposed to be what they do, but until they can produce when it counts, that's what the D-League is for. **Marcus Smart** is shooting 25.8 percent, but since he shot 35 percent last year he gets short leash.

Brad Stevens: What sets **Bill Belichick** apart from most others is how he adapts to a style of play based on the personnel. The first two Super Bowl teams dinked and dunked and were built around superior defense. But later they depended on the great offense as **Tom Brady** blossomed. As evidenced by the way he shortened the rotation once he finally figured out who should play, Stevens looks to have this quality. Hence once **David Lee** and the kids went to the bench for good and **Tyler Zeller** was resurrected to bring back their best pick and roll big, they're 15 and 4. Plus they play hard night in and night out for him, have the NBA's third-best defense and play as a team, so it's clear he's a keeper.

Sometimes It's Better to be Lucky than Good: When they came up with the sixth pick in the tank year most were disappointed because all they got out of it was a bricklaying guard in Smart, who really doesn't have a position. Turns out he is a classic example of what I have repeatedly said in this space: Shooting is over-rated. The Warriors show what a weapon it is, but that you can be a key player, even at guard, without being even a decent shooter as Smart is showing. He's just a basketball player whose grit, toughness and strength are as crucial to what they've become as they are with **Jae Crowder** in the same way and **Isaiah Thomas** has in a different way. There is not a guy in that vaunted draft class who would have had as positive an effect on their development as he has.

Jockeying for Playoff Position: Their lead over 9-seed Detroit is 5.5 games. But there is only a three-game difference between them at 3 seed and current 8-seed Chicago so they have to keep winning to get home court in Round I. But with Chicago racked by injuries and **Chris Bosh** likely done for the year with the recurrence of his scary blood clot situation, the Heat and Bulls are done. Last year's "it" team Atlanta was fading amid rumors they were about break up their core. But that didn't happen, so they're the most dangerous team below them. Thus there's a clear path to the 3 seed and home court advantage against **Larry Bird**'s Indiana Pacers in Round I.

Bottom Line: While everyone blows games, if they'd won 10 of the 14 winnable games mentioned earlier they're 43-14 with only Golden State and San Antonio ahead of them. I know "if"s don't count, but it does say to me they're not far off. And given what happened at Butler and here last year, Steven looks to have another attribute Belichick (except this injury-plagued year) does: that his teams are better at the end of the year. If true, it suggests fun battles to watch may be in store come May.

Email Dave Long at dlong@hippo-press.com.

THE SITE OF Great Events in Manchester
February 1986 – Spirou Gets First 20 Win Season At NHC
The state was in mourning over **Christa Mcauliffe's** loss in the Space Shuttle disaster a month earlier, Tri-State Megabucks' jackpot was at a whopping all-time $6 million high and in his first year at Manhattan College **Tom Sullivan** just lost to North Carolina and Notre Dame by scores of 102-47 and 129-45. Meanwhile back in Manchester in his first season as the headman on North River Road **Stan Spirou** was enjoying the exceptional talent his mentor Sully left behind. To make all involved feel old, it was 30 years ago in February of 1986 and New Hampshire College was looking for win number 20 vs Keene State before an SRO crowd. The 8-18 Owls ran out to a 12 point lead after 10 minutes. The Penmen were still down 8 with 4:50 left in the game before a **Joe Bradley** led rally got it to 63 all after he made both ends of a 1-1 and a put back lay-up. NHC looked like a winner when **Carmen Giampetruzzi** (the father) drilled a corner J to go up two with four seconds left. But - though the record is unclear which knucklehead did it at such an inopportune time - KSC's **Darrell Long** got to the line with two seconds left sending it to OT which turned into the **Cleveland Woods** show as the All-American center immediately scored off an **Eddie Ithier** alley opp. **Darrell Johnson** followed with a 25 foot rainbow before a Woods put back iced the 85-81 final. That gave him 27 points (and 17 boards). Bradley, Giampetruzzi and Ithier added 18, 17 and 15 respectively while Manchester Country Club regular **Steve Schade** and buddy **Mike Black** each had two as Spirou got win number 20 in what was another great event for Manchester.
105939

UNH hoops headed tourney?

The Big Story: The embarrassment of playing two Division III teams for sure wins aside, could the UNH basketball team be headed for the Big Dance? After coming back from 19 down in a 74-63 win over Hartford, they now have 15 real wins against 10 losses and at 10-4 trail only Stony Brook and Albany in America East. Since they beat Albany and lost to SB by one point earlier this month, they appear to have enough juice to win the AE tourney, which earns an automatic trip to the NCAA Tournament!

Sports 101: With the San Antonio Spurs still undefeated at home this year, they're on pace to break the record set by the 1985-86 Celtics, who went 40-1 at home. Whom was that loss to?

Nick of Tyme Awards: To **Jenna Chrabolowski**, who scored the game-winner with 5 ticks left in Central's 42-40 win over Merrimack, **Ryan Cardow** for scoring in OT to make Memorial a 5-4 winner over Nashua North/Souhegan, and **Eddie Welch**, who sent it to OT for Pinkerton by potting one with 45 seconds left in a 3-3 tie with Exeter.

The Numbers: It was a rough couple of days vs. area schools for Spaulding basketball teams. The boys lost by 33 to Bedford on Tuesday as **Colby Gendron** (19) and **Brian Hughes** (15) combined for 34 Bulldog points. On Friday the girls were 32-point losers to Trinity 44-12 to make it a combined 65-point deficit as the two clubs fell to 0-30 on the year.

Intra-City Rivalry Game of the Week: The battle of Nashua went to North in a 76-60 win over Bishop Guertin as **Alonzo Linton**, **Ronnie Silva** and **Nate Hale** led the way for the Titans with 19, 18 and 17 points respectively while game-high honors went to BG's **Mike Rinko** with 25.

Sports 101 Answer: The Celtics' only home loss in 1985-86 was a 121-103 loss to the Portland Trailblazers. They also won all 10 home playoff games.

On This Date – Feb. 25: **1933** – **Tom Yawkey** buys the Red Sox. **1957** – Major League Baseball is given a gift from the Supreme Court when it votes 6-3 that it is the only sport business exempt from antitrust laws. **1964** – The ground beneath Miami Beach shakes when 7-1 underdog **Cassius Clay** TKOs the supposedly unbeatable **Sonny Liston** in seven.

The Numbers

7 – consecutive games Bedford has given up two goals or less with Saturday's 4-2 win over Bishop Brady being the latest when **Eric Voloshin** had 14 saves and **Griffin Gagne** a pair of goals.

13 – lucky number of points scored by **Emily Keefe** when West upset Souhegan 33-27.

14 – wins against two losses for Bedford after a 46-38 win over Central when **Bri Purcell** had a team-high 12 points while Central's **Amanda Gaudreault** had a game-high 23.

22 – straight points scored by Exeter as they roared from 18 down to a 92-79 runaway win over Manchester Memorial.

25 – shots blocked by **Akok (squared) Akok** in three wins by West, when he had 7 each in the first two before a monster 25-point, 10-rebound and 11-block effort in Saturday's 77-58 win over Oyster River.

27 – points scored by **Jaylen Leroy** in Central's 83-62 rout of Nashua South when **Evan MacDonald** and **Jon Makori** combined for 35 more and **DJ Frechette** had 30 for South.

Sports Glossary

Larry Bird: Legendary Boston hoopster who begs the question, how can he be ranked in the sixth spot all-time in ESPN's recent ranking of the Top 100 NBA players when he's not even the greatest Celtic ever and the one who is, **Bill Russell**, absurdly was ranked a spot behind him at 7?

David Lee: Power forward whose short tenure in Boston ended this week after handling the disappointment of going from a starter to being stuck to the pine for his last 19 games with the class of the professional he showed himself to be.

Bill Belichick: Guy who can apparently take ex-Pittsburgh's **DeAngelo Williams** off the Christmas card list after the free agent running back recently said he wouldn't consider signing here because Coach B was a "cheater," begging the question, what makes him think Coach B would want a guy deep into the back nine of a mediocre career?

Golden State Warriors: A team shooting on a historic pace with the three-ball at 42.1 percent with their sights set on winning a most ever 73 BN+NBA regular-season games. Most amazing is how they are doing it, by blitzing teams nightly from downtown with a team having six players shooting the three-ball above 40 percent. **Steph Curry** leads at 45.5 percent, followed by **Klay Thompson** at 42.1 percent. If you do the math of what they have to shoot with two-point baskets to match how many points they score with the three-point shot, it would be 63.1 percent on twos, which no team in league history has ever done. If it's to match what he does on threes, it would be a sick 68.8 percent.

This Week - A Guide For First Time Buyers

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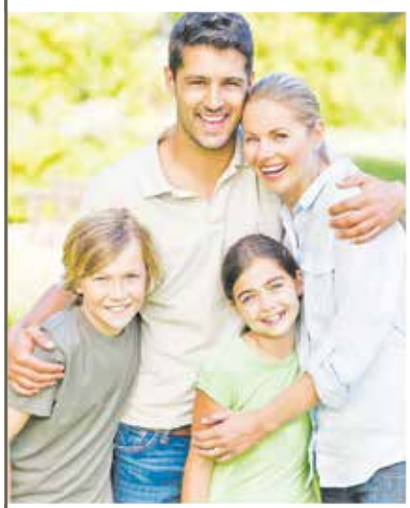

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TROPHY Pets

If you have a gerbil, or a cat, or a goat, and you're doing the bare minimum as a pet parent — feeding, watering, cleaning out a cage or litter box or stall — you don't know what you're missing. Sure, you take your dog for a walk or ride your horse along wooded trails, but maybe you want to take your pet interaction to the next level. Maybe you want to teach your dog a few tricks or pretty up your cat or bunny. And once you've done those things, maybe you want to show off your prized pet. Well, New Hampshire has all kinds of opportunities to show animals, from horses and cows to bunnies and gerbils. And even if you don't want to join the show circuit, there are plenty of ways to give your animals a little extra TLC and make them trophy worthy — even if they never set paw or hoof in the ring.

BEST PAWS FORWARD

What it takes to compete in cat and dog shows

By Angie Sykeny
asykeny@hippopress.com

Your cat or dog may be a winner in your eyes, but how would he do in a competitive show?

New Hampshire is home to 15 American Kennel Club sanctioned dog clubs and two Cat Fanciers' Association sanctioned cat clubs that host official shows and competitions of all kinds, and some clubs offer training programs to help you and your pet prepare for the big event. There's plenty of fun for spectators too — it's not every day you get to see a cat jump through hoops.

Dog shows

The American Kennel Club is the largest purebred dog registry in the world and the governing body of over 22,000 dog events each year, including those hosted by its affiliated dog clubs in the Granite State.

While each club offers something different, most AKC-licensed events fall under one of three categories: conformation shows, companion events and performance events.

In conformation shows, purebred dogs are judged by how well they conform to their breed's written standard. Judges examine the dog's size and weight, bone and muscle structure, coat coloring and texture, facial features, movement and temperament.

Companion events are about the synergy and communication between dog and handler.

At an obedience or rally trial, the handler leads the dog through a course containing signs with various actions such as "sit," "jump" and "heel," and instructs the dog to fulfill each action. At an agility trial, the handler guides the dog through an obstacle course of jumps, tunnels, weave poles and so on, using only vocal and motioning commands.

"It's about working on that bond," said Deb Mardin, committee member of AKC-affiliated Lakes Region Kennel Club. "The more you do with the dog, the better dog you'll end up with, and the better bond you'll have."

Purebred dogs belonging to breeds with unique skills can demonstrate those skills in specialized performance events. These could include hunt tests for hunting breeds, lure coursing for sighthounds or sheepdog trials for herding breeds.

Titles for AKC events are acquired through a point system; dogs are awarded points at each competition based on how they rank, and when they reach a certain number of points, they become eligible to receive a title.

How to prepare your dog for an event depends on the type of event it is. At a conformation show, for example, your dog must be trained to trot beside you, stand in one spot for an extended period of time and be cooperative during a physical examination conducted by a stranger. Some dog clubs offer training programs that directly correlate with the events they host.

"We have [classes for] obedience, handling, rally, so they're very specific classes," Mardin said. "Getting professional help through a class is really the best way to … teach [dogs] different skills to help them perform in the ring. It also gets them used to being around other dogs, which they'll have to do at a show."

No matter what the event is, you should strive to make your dog look as attractive as possible, and that can't always be accom-

JOIN THE CLUB

CFA cat clubs

- New Hampshire Feline Fanciers (nhff.org)
- Seacoast Cat Club (seacoastcatclub.org)

AKC dog clubs

- Agility Club of New Hampshire (acnh-agility.org)
- Carrol County Kennel Club (carrollcountykennelclub.org)
- Cheshire Kennel Club (ckcshow@gmail.com)
- Claremont Beagle Club (ctruellnewport@aol.com)
- Collie Club of New Hampshire (gbish0@comcast.net)
- German Sheepdog Club of Southern New Hampshire (gsdcsnh.org)
- Granite State Shetland Sheepdog Club of Southeast New Hampshire (gssscnh.com)
- Lakes Region Kennel Club (lakesregionkennelclub.org)
- Merrimack Valley Kennel Club (info@mvkc.org)
- New Hampshire Beagle Club (nhbeagleclub.webs.com)
- Northern New England Brittany Club (nnebc.org)
- Rockingham County Kennel Club (sparhwk@comcast.net)
- Souhegan Kennel Club (souheganken-nelclub.org)
- Spacetown Beagle Club (raymondsportsmansclub.org)
- White Mountain Beagle Club (partp@myfairpoint.net)

plished with a cookie-cutter grooming.

"You have to try out different [styles] and learn what makes your dog look good," Mardin said.

Cat shows

The Cat Fanciers' Association is the world's largest registry of pedigreed cats and licenses about 400 cat shows each season. New Hampshire has two CFA-affiliated cat clubs, New Hampshire Feline Fanciers and Seacoast Cat Club, both of which host yearly shows.

A CFA cat show consists of Pedigreed competitions, the Household Pet competition and occasionally the Feline Agility Competition.

Pedigreed cats compete in three categories: "Kitten" is for kittens 4 to 8 months old. "Championship" is for adult cats that have not been neutered or spayed, and "Premiership" is for adult cats that have been neutered or spayed. Pedigreed cats are judged by how well they conform to their breed's written standard. The best cats from each breed continue through a series of elimination rounds to the final all-breed ranking, where they can win points. When a cat earns a certain amount of points, it is eligible to receive a title. CFA awards titles on grand, regional and national levels.

The Household Pet competition is open to mixed-breed cats who are over 4 months old, have not been declawed and, if over 8 months old, have been neutered or spayed. Since there is no written standard to judge them by, Household Pet cats "are judged instead for their uniqueness, pleasing appearance, unusual markings and sweet dispositions," as explained on the CFA website.

In the past, Household Pet winners received an unofficial "Merit Award," but as of May 2015, CFA has started awarding official titles up to the regional level for the Household Pet division.

"Ninety-seven percent of cats are mixed breed … they're the majority, so [CFA] allows them to compete," said Carol Babel, a board member for NHFF. "People who think they have a beautiful [mixed] cat can also try their hand at a title now."

A Lakes Region Kennel Club match. Courtesy photo.

CFA shows may also include a performance competition open to all cats called the Feline Agility Competition. Using a lure toy, the handler leads the cat through an obstacle course of hurdles, tunnels, weave poles, stairs and hoops. Cats receive points for each obstacle completed and, if they complete the whole course, they receive bonus points determined by how long it took them. Up to four titles can be earned for the Feline Agility Competition.

Training your cat for an agility competition is as easy as leading it up, down, through and around objects in your house using a laser light or wand toy. But skill training is only half of it. The other half, Babel says, is a matter of personality.

"A cat that's naturally playful and likes to run and chase a toy will normally be pretty good at agility," she said. "But for a cat that has a very quiet life, it can be hard to be in a show hall with all the noise and movement and other animals they wouldn't normally see."

INSIDE THE SHOW RING

The culture of showing farm animals

By Allie Ginwala
aginwala@hippopress.com

If you live in New Hampshire, chances are you've gone to a county fair and seen a dairy cow or sheep presented for show, but what happens behind the scenes might not be what you expect. Here in the Granite State, showing animals isn't done just to win a ribbon — it's about building partnerships and maintaining a sense of community.

For a look into the state's farm animal culture, the Hippo spoke with Mary Davis, program coordinator for animal and agricultural science at the New Hampshire State 4-H Office, Andrea Sawyer, extension field specialist for 4-H Youth Development, and Mary Fox, president of the New Hampshire Dairy Goat Association.

It starts with 4-H

Perhaps the biggest outlet for showing farm animals in the state is 4-H, open to youth ages 8 to 18. According to Davis, the most common animals chosen by 4-H members are horses, dairy cattle, sheep, goats and working steer.

"We encourage them to explore and go to meet different animals," Davis said. "If you're not sure — 'Do I want to show a sheep or goat?' — you've gotta go meet those 14 ▶

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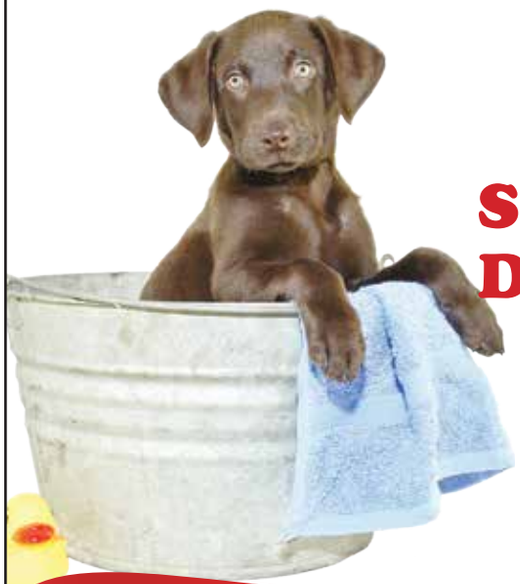

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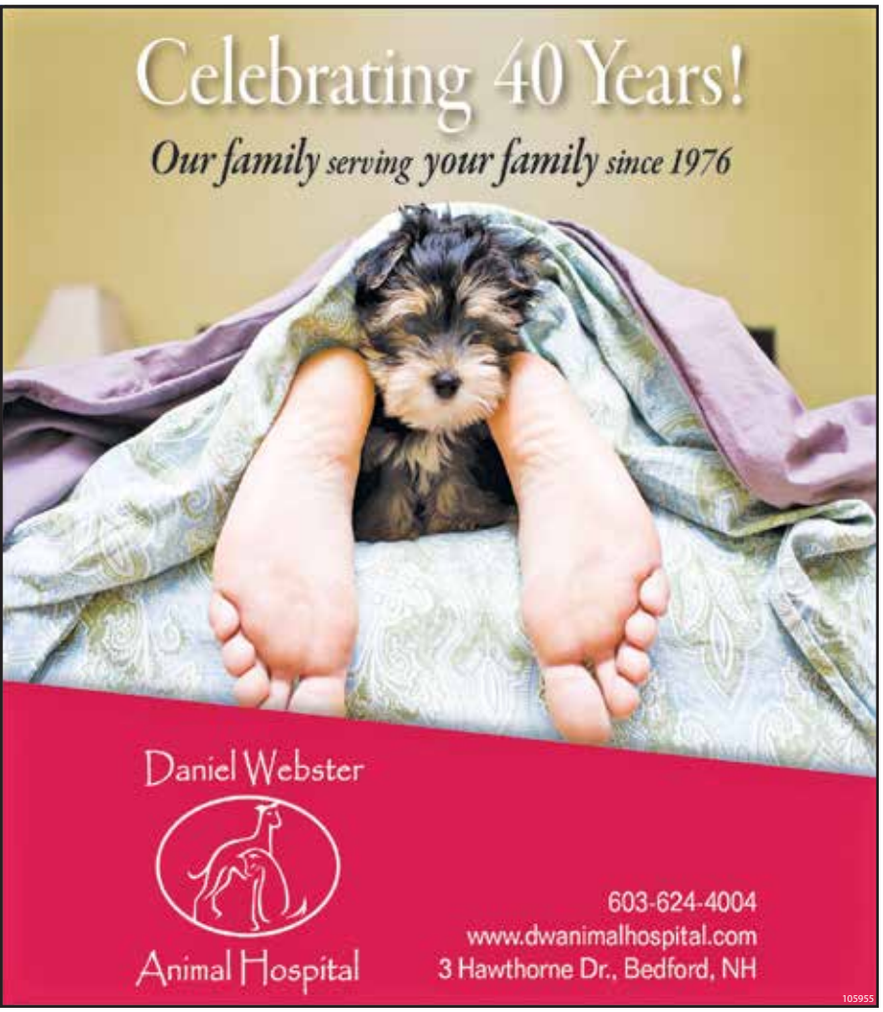

4-H working steer. Courtesy photo.

◀13 sorts of animals and see what works best for you."

Often times those who want to get into showing farm animals find an organic start — their neighbor has a flock of sheep or the family wants to raise chickens — which makes it easier to fulfill the 4-H requirement of the kid doing 50 percent of the work to take care of it.

"We really want the long-term project where the member works with a leader and mentor and animal to form a project and learn those skills about responsibility and follow-through," Davis said.

Mary Fox and her husband bought their first purebred goat 48 years ago after they got married and bought a small farm. They both grew up on farms and were familiar with animals but decided to get involved with goats because they stay small enough to engage with young children.

"As a result, our children were able to interact immediately, as soon as they could walk," Fox said. "I got my grandkids in the show ring as early as 15 months old, just walked them in with me."

What makes an animal shine

Whether it's a 4-H show, an open show at a county fair or a show specific to a certain species, most farm animal shows have the same basic structure.

"It varies by animal, but pretty much every [animal] has a fitting and showmanship class where the 4-H-er shows the animal to its best advantage, clean and well-presented," Davis said. "Then they have to pose the animal ... to show the traits off."

The animals are judged against those of their own age and breed, Sawyer said, and the 4-H-er or individual showing the animal needs to present herself well too.

"Most all breeds have a standard of perfection," she said. "So [judges look for] the animal closest to that standard, and [it] will vary from judge to judge and fair to fair."

The New Hampshire Dairy Goat Association shows are often sponsored by the American Dairy Goat Association so no other animals take part. Fox noted that right now the Sandwich Fair is the only one in the state that holds a dairy goat show.

"The show is sanctioned for usually eight different dairy goat breeds and so each breed would have its individual classes," Fox said, starting with the 1- to 2-year-olds and working up the age scale. "The judge looks at the animal's body conformation and there are score points for each part of the body and adding up the points that each animal is getting."

The goat is essentially being judged on whether it's truest to the breed standard, in terms of ideal health and functionality. For example, feet are worth 4 points, but the mammary, the udder, is 35 points because that's a key part for the function of a dairy goat.

"It's also by breed [so] each breed has their own characteristics as far as color goes and as far as some body structures are a little diverse," she said.

As a whole, agility and skills competitions are not common for farm animal shows. Sometimes in the goat world a dairy herd will be judged to see how well the breeder does overall (it's challenging to have multiple animals at top grade) or perhaps shows that involve children will have an unofficial race or competition at the end, just for fun.

Getting involved

The benefits of showing farm animals vary, but both Davis and Fox believe it taps into essential skillsets. For 4-H members, an animal project includes showing an animal but also incorporates other aspects like presenting speeches, leading demonstrations about care and grooming and even getting involved with community service, like painting a barn, fixing a fence or volunteering at an equine rescue facility.

"They learn responsibility for care of an animal, and it also gives them a work ethic too," Fox said. "I think it gives them the opportunity to be rewarded for their work when they get a nice ribbon. It's always nice to be rewarded and try harder."

Go to a show

For those who aren't showing an animal, Fox thinks the draw to shows is the chance to see animals in an exciting environment.

"The public loves watching animals being strutted around doing their stuff," she said. "They are all groomed to perfection, clipped down, feet trimmed perfectly, clean; it's a totally different thing than looking at goats on a pasture. ... They also get to see that the animals [like] dairy goats all have different personalities, very similar to us. Some are extremely stubborn, others are loving and affectionate. Some are pranksters, always getting into mischief."

Visit nhfairs.yolasite.com/fair-dates for this year's fair dates, and see extension.unh.edu to learn more about 4-H animal projects.

PRETTY PONIES

From beauty to athleticism, horses strut their stuff

By Ryan Lessard
news@hippopress.com

There are several different kinds of horse shows that take place in New Hampshire, and as any horse owner knows, a lot goes into preparing for and participating in them.

Show basics

In New Hampshire, local equestrians take part in horse shows that focus on the aesthetics of the horse and the rider, shows based on horse breeds and more competitive and athletic shows that involve jumping or obstacle courses.

Judy Forsyth of Barrington has judged shows for about 20 years.

"We do breed shows, 4-H shows, fun shows," Forsyth said. "A fun show would be more of a learning type show for children or for adults."

Forsyth is also involved in the NbarH Riding Club, which hosts its own shows.

"They have a pleasure show, they have a miniature horse show … and then they have the gymkhana show, which is a gaming show," Forsyth said.

The pleasure shows, Forsyth says, are judged on presentation of the horse and rider, including the horse's cadence, but there are no obstacles on the course. They are usually divided between western-style and English-style or by age, or both.

The gymkhana show is a combination of several technical, timed objectives including pole bending, barrel racing, relay racing and keyhole racing.

"In pole bending, they have a series of six poles in a straight line and they have to run to the end and then turn and weave through the poles and weave back through the poles and come down on the straight side on the other side," Forsyth said. "In barrel racing, they do a three-barrel race. So it's set in a triangle and they go to one barrel, go around it, and another barrel and go around, and the third barrel."

One of the most popular competitive shows is the hunter/jumper show.

Equestrian Jessica Elliott of Kensington has had some success on the hunter/jumper circuit.

"It's [judged] more on the horse's performance on how they move and how they jump and their styles," Elliott said. "If a horse knocks a rail there are points deducted, and you have to ride the course within a certain amount of time allowed."

Beauty pageants

In almost all of these shows, grooming and presentation are just as important as training.

"You give them a bath prior [to the show]. Make sure they're trimmed as far as facial hair, around the hooves … you may band their mane or braid their mane. The tail, if it's an English horse, you'd probably braid that. There's sprays that you can use to [make the coat] glossy and more appealing to the eye," Forsyth said.

Even in the athletic shows, Elliott says, they have to take special care of the horse's appearance.

"We train six days a week on our horses and … the horses do need to be bathed and braided, and we clip them," Elliott said. "It takes a lot of preparation the day before to get them presentable, and it also takes a lot of time and preparation as a rider to be ready for a show."

16 ▶

Jackie Johnson of Brentwood riding her horse Storm. Courtesy of 4-H.

UPCOMING SHOWS

NH Hunter Jumper Association Spring Show
When: May 6 - 8
Where: Cheshire Fairgrounds, 247 Monadnock Hwy, Swanzey
More info: nhhja.com

NH Horse and Trail Annual Show
When: May 13 - 15
Where: Deerfield Fairgrounds, 34 Stage Road., Deerfield
More info: nhhta.org

North Shore Horsemen's Council Shows
When: May 22, June 19, Aug. 14, Sept. 25
Where: Senator Bell Farm, 156 Derry Road., Chester
More info: northshorehorsemens.org

State 4-H Horse Show
When: July 15 - 17
Where: Deerfield Fairgrounds, 34 Stage Road., Deerfield
More info: extension.unh.edu

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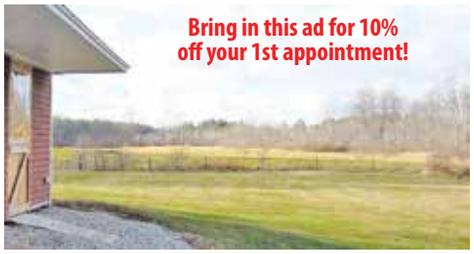

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LITTLE PETS, LOTS OF LOVE

How locals show off rabbits, gerbils

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

Animal competitions aren't just for large animals — there are shows for small fuzzy animals like rabbits and gerbils too.

Rad rabbits

The smallest animal you can show through 4-H is the rabbit.

Rabbits are often paired with cavies (guinea pigs) in organizations and shows, but there's not as much cavie action in New Hampshire as in other states, especially those out west. Cavies are more delicate and can't be exposed to cold temperatures, wind or draft. Rabbits, on the other hand, are more durable and often act as good house pets. They're not quite as smart as cats and dogs, but they can be litter box trained and are very friendly.

"A rabbit as a pet in the house is wonderful," Jean Ann St. Pierre, who's been showing rabbits 27 years, said via phone. "And they socialize really well."

St. Pierre, of Nottingham, said that for her club, Cottontail 4-H, the Stratham Fair is the big event each year. The club includes seven members, ages 8 to 15, and is the only one in the state affiliated with the American Rabbit Breeders Association, St. Pierre said.

The Stratham Fair rabbit show, a combined effort of 4-H and ARBA, is a four-day event that starts with a purebred competition with licensed ARBA judges. They must be knowledgeable about all 49 rabbit breeds, each of which has a standard of perfection in terms of color, weight, shape and fur texture.

It's not a very expensive hobby, but kids learn soon it's a lot of work to prep animals for showtime. It requires a lot of training, because

Rabbit hopping at the 2015 Stratham Fair. Photo by Jean Ann St. Pierre.

show rabbits need to develop good temperaments for when they're handled. They're judged on how well their body types match the ideal standard and on how well-kept they are — clean, free of stains, with clipped nails and well-groomed fur.

You can't change the body type of your rabbit, but, just as in a beauty pageant, you can teach it how to pose or perform correctly to accentuate its best features.

"There are different poses for different breeds. Some are running breeds, and they have to run back and forth in front of the judges. Others have to stand with their front legs straight and their heads held high," St. Pierre said.

Showing also requires a lot of knowledge from owners. During a showmanship class, they must take a rabbit through a health check in front of a judge. They must also be able to correctly identify different breeds and be studied up for a written exam and rabbit quiz bowl, complete with buzzers.

St. Pierre said there's a lot of fun incorporated in between, like rabbit hopping contests.

"Rabbit hopping is extremely big in Europe," St. Pierre said. "They do it like an

◀ 15 One of the required 4-H classes for horse shows is purely about presentation, according to Jan Brubacher of Fremont.

"One is called sit and show, where the kids present the horse after being bathed and cleaned. It's more like a beauty contest of how well the horse behaves and being evaluated from the ground and how well the youngster shows the horse," said Brubacher, a 4-H coach and the head of the Peppermint Ponies horse club. "Just like people getting a haircut, making sure your nails are filed, making sure your coat is in good condition, that you're fit — height appropriate to weight."

She says kids in the 4-H program can even elect to concentrate entirely on the grooming and handling of horses if presenting and riding isn't their cup of tea. They work effectively as stable managers and receive recognition and credit for their behind-the-scenes role, according to Brubacher.

She says many people don't realize that horses also play an important role in therapy for young and old people alike.

"Horses have such a wonderful calming effect on people's nerves and anxiety and tension," Brubacher said.

Walk the walk

In nearly all these shows, judges pay close attention to how the horse walks and moves. Some shows are specifically focused on that one aspect, where they're judged on different gaits such as walk, trot, canter and gallop. Each gait has a specific pace and tempo, and it takes training to command a horse to perform the gait expected of them.

"Just like dog obedience, you need to work with the animal, get your cues figured out, get your commands straightened out, be able to work under distractions like at a show environment," Brubacher said.

She says these shows are judged by age, riders' skill level and the ability of the horse.

equestrian jump." (Wikipedia says the highest rabbit jump is 39.2 inches.)

On the last day of the fair, kids dress up with their rabbits. One year, a girl and her pet dressed as Dorothy and Toto from *The Wizard of Oz*. Another year, a boy and his rabbit wore matching leather motorcycle jackets.

There's effort to get more rabbit shows in other parts of the state. Christine Whiting of Lancaster is trying to organize a 4-H competition at the Lancaster Fair. She said via phone there are lots of kids in the area with pet rabbits who want to participate in the show scene, plus a few adults who already do — she pointed to Colebrook Academy Principal Mark Fiorentino, who Whiting said has been helpful in getting the movement started, and who shows all over the country.

"It's work, but it's like a fun kind of work. Rabbits are easier to keep than the larger animals, and you'd be surprised at how many adults are involved in showing rabbits," Whiting said.

Gerbil love

New Hampshire's actually a very important state in gerbil show culture. The country's first gerbil show was in Merrimack, a "sanctioned match" held by the American Gerbil Society, said AGS member Donna Anastasi, a gerbil enthusiast who still has photos from that event, taken by her sister Ellen Bellini.

New Hampshire is still often home to a large gerbil gathering, the New England Gerbil Show, but this year the event happens out of state. It's one of four big gerbil events held every year in different parts of the country. Sometimes people travel from as far as Canada to compete. (And for owners who can't travel, there's a late summer virtual show.)

Anastasi will soon be prepping for the New England competition, which is slated for June, though she said she likely won't choose her 12 competitors (among her 40-plus gerbils) until just before the event. She'll need to choose the animals that are in the best form and best condition, which is different for every breed, Siamese to Burmese. Some are supposed to have white bellies and solid-color fur, while others should have spots and patterns. Gerbils are constantly growing a new coat, so you also want to pick an animal molting at just the right time.

She'll try to find her best-fit gerbils, because judges also look at build. Males should be bulky — think linebacker, muscular but not overweight. Females should also be muscular but petite — think a figure skater. Eyes are supposed to be bright, clear and shaped like almonds. Tails should be fully furred, straight and with a fluffy tuft at the end, and just as long as the animal's body. And, as with any other animal, judges look at how soft, dense and clean fur is, which is evidence of a healthy diet.

Gerbil owners must work to train their animal so it's tame and friendly, which should come naturally, Anastasi said.

"A lot of these things about gerbils make them unique show animals," Anastasi said. "They're bold and friendly and fearless, and they're not nocturnal. Another animal might be stressed out in show experiences, but gerbils are up for the adventure."

Outside of aesthetic judging, gerbils in shows perform in chewing contests, races, mazes and obstacle courses.

Anastasi is biased, but she said showing gerbils is a way to get into pet show culture without the cost of taking care of larger animals.

"Gerbils are a desert animal. They're easy to take care of," Anastasi said. "And with gerbils, you get a lot of the same excitement and fun — with the ribbons, and being able to meet people from different parts of the country — without the cost. It's an easy hobby, and an inexpensive hobby."

FOR PERFECT HAMSTERS

In New England at least, hamsters don't usually participate in shows like other common small house pets, such as gerbils, rabbits and guinea pigs, primarily because they're nocturnal (and, as such, are better suited for grown-ups than children).

But even without the motivation of a pet show, there are plenty of ways to turn your hamster into a trophy pet, starting with handling, said Paula Parisi, manager of human education programs at the New Hampshire SPCA.

"Hamsters don't like to be turned over on their backs," Parisi said. "Their stomach is their most vulnerable part. And they don't like to be grabbed around the middle, either. The best way is to scoop the hamster up and have it sit right on your hand."

The critters function best if they sleep during the day and are let out for a bit in the evening.

"You need to handle a hamster every day, even if it's for only 10 minutes," Parisi said. "They have short memories, these little animals, and so if you handle them, say, on Saturdays, they're likely not going to be as easily handled as a hamster that gets out every day."

As for diet, commercial food is fine, but you can also supplement that food with about a quarter cup of fruits or vegetables a day (romaine lettuce, peppers, strawberries, apples and cucumbers are all good choices). For water, go for the bottle over the bowl, and for exercise, go for a wheel, but one that's smooth on the inside, not made with wiring where feet can get stuck.

It's not a lot of work to keep your hamster clean and presentable because, for the most part, they clean themselves and don't need to be bathed, unless they somehow escape and become dirty that way. Their nails don't need to be trimmed, and their teeth remain healthy when they have things to chew on — Parisi suggested sticks from apple trees — and their fur can be combed with a simple toothbrush.

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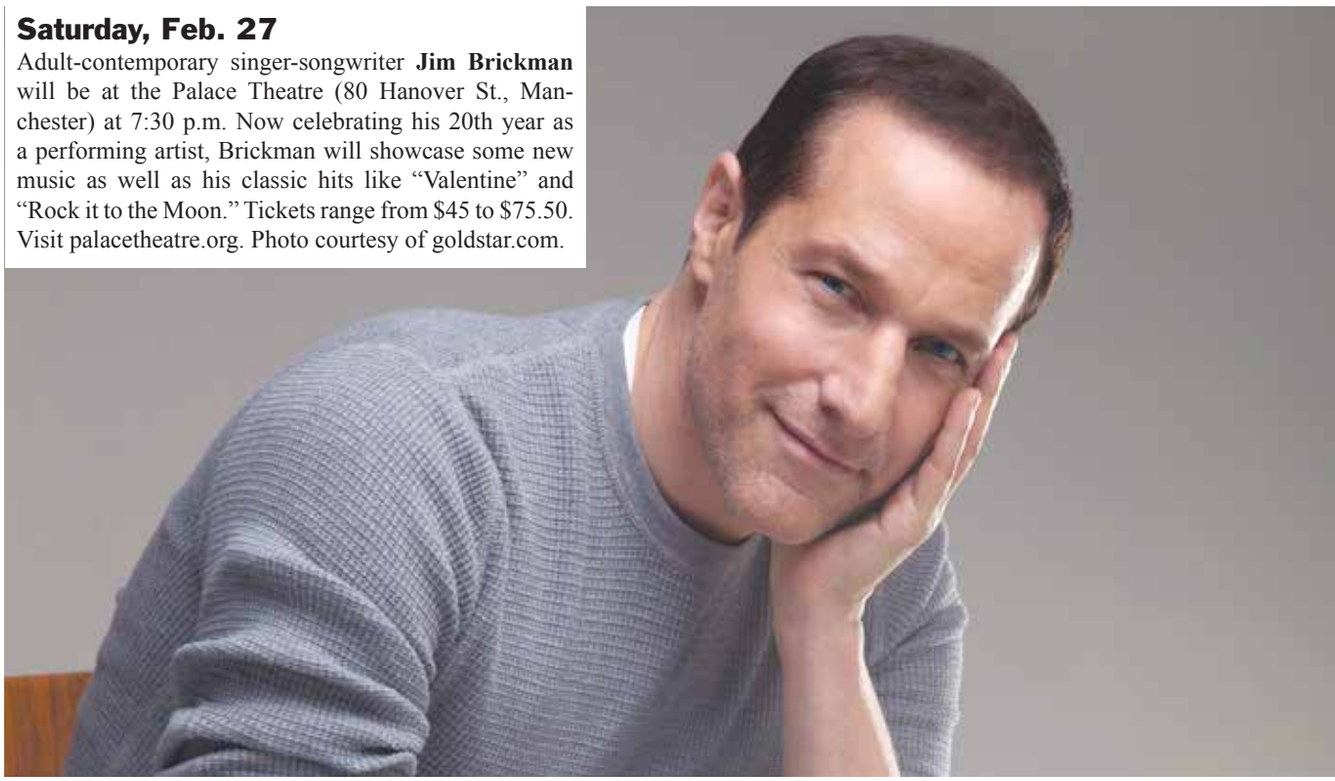

Saturday, Feb. 27

Adult-contemporary singer-songwriter **Jim Brickman** will be at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St., Manchester) at 7:30 p.m. Now celebrating his 20th year as a performing artist, Brickman will showcase some new music as well as his classic hits like "Valentine" and "Rock it to the Moon." Tickets range from $45 to $75.50. Visit palacetheatre.org. Photo courtesy of goldstar.com.

Saturday, Feb. 27

The rescheduled **Great Rotary Ice Fishing Derby** will take place Saturday, Feb. 27, and Sunday, Feb. 28, at Meredith Bay on Lake Winnipesaukee and water bodies around the state. Prizes will be awarded for the best catch in various categories. The ice on Meredith Bay will be transformed into a family-friendly carnival-like atmosphere with vendors and bob houses. Tickets cost $30. Visit meredithrotary.com for official derby rules and a list of eligible fish.

Saturday, Feb. 27

Lil' Iguana's Children's Safety Foundation has its **Craft Fair & Raffle** from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Crowne Plaza Hotel (2 Somerset Plaza, Nashua). The event features over 70 vendors as well as a raffle room with over 50 prizes. Admission is free. For a full list of vendors and raffles, visit liliguanausa.org/febcraft.

Saturday, Feb. 27

The New Hampshire Historical Society (30 Park St., Concord) will host an author talk and book signing at 2 p.m. Join author and Emmy Award-winning former television journalist **Kevin Flynn** as he talks about his new book, *American Sweepstakes: How One Small State Bucked the Church, the Feds, and the Mob to Usher in the Lottery Age*. Admission is free. Call 856-0604 or visit nhhistory.org.

Sunday, Feb. 28

The **88th Academy Awards** held at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood will air on ABC at 8:30 p.m., to honor the best films of 2015 in 24 categories. Films with the most nominations include *The Revenant* with 12 and *Mad Max: Fury Road* with 10. Chris Rock will host. See oscar.go.com.

Eat: Spaghetti

The Bikers Against Child Abuse New Hampshire Chapter has its annual **Spaghetti Dinner** at the Alpine Club (175 Putnam St., Manchester) on Saturday, Feb. 27, from 5 to 9 p.m. The dinner is all-you-can-eat, and there will be beverages available at the bar as well as raffles and prizes. The cost is $10 in advance, $15 at the door and free for kids age 12 and under. Call 986-4480 or email info@bacanh.com.

Drink: Irish beer

Head to IncrediBREW (112 Daniel Webster Highway, Nashua) on Tuesday, March 1, at 6 p.m., for a **St. Patrick's Day Split-a-Batch Brewing Event**. Participants will brew three of IncrediBREW's best Irish beers: Irish Dry Stout, Double Dublin and Irish Red Ale. Return in two weeks for bottling and take home a variety case. The cost is $30 per case, $40 with bottles and cap stickers included. Register online at incredibrew.com.

Be merry: With sleigh rides

Don't miss the final weekend of Charmingfare Farm's (774 High St., Candia) **Sleigh Ride Social** on Saturday, Feb. 27, and Sunday, Feb. 28. Visitors will board a horse-drawn sleigh — or wagon, depending on snow conditions — and travel to a secluded pine grove where there will be bonfires, marshmallow-toasting, complimentary hot dogs and hot cocoa. When you're ready to leave, just board the next sleigh back to the farm. Tickets range from $25 to $35 per person, and children under 23 months are admitted free. See visitthefarm.com.

Looking for more stuff to do this week? Check out **Hippo Scout**, available via the Apple App Store, Google Play and online at hipposcout.com.

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Two actors, 15 roles

KAPOW tackles *Stones in His Pockets*

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

There's no downtime for actors Peter Josephson and Rich Hurley in theatre KAPOW's upcoming production, *Stones in His Pockets* by Marie Jones.

The duo are playing a combined 15 roles in this two-man show, which is not unheard of for KAPOW — there were just three actors in last year's *Macbeth*, but that play had very few characters in each scene.

"People have said, 'Of course, you did *Macbeth*, so of course you're doing this,'" Josephson said at rehearsals last week. "But it's very different because, in this case, there are times when you're onstage and having a conversation with yourself." (He mentioned one scene in which seven of Hurley's characters all come in within 15 pages of the script.)

At the time of their interviews, the cast members had moved to their eventual performance space on the Stockbridge Theatre stage. Behind the curtain, photographer Matthew Lomanno was setting up his camera to take press photos of the actors in their many costumes — with pipes and plaid jackets, head shawls and sweater vests — while the rest of the clothes hung on an assortment of chairs and sat in two leather trunks on stage.

Stones in His Pockets is an Olivier Award-winner about a movie location shoot in Ireland that causes a small-town ruckus. It focuses on Charlie Conlon and Jake Quinn, two residents employed as extras, as are many of the townspeople.

Rich Hurley and Peter Josephson. Matthew Lomanno photo.

"A lot of the play is about outsiders and intrusions. An American movie crew is coming into this small little Irish town to make a movie about them," Hurley said.

Director Matt Cahoon said he and his wife and company co-founder, Carey Cahoon, read the piece about this time last year.

"It's an interesting play for us for a couple of reasons. It's a small cast, obviously. And it's a challenging play. It's funny. We usually do comedy in this time slot, but in typical KAPOW fashion, it's not a comedy throughout. The first act is very funny, but by the end, you realize it has a serious piece to it," Cahoon said.

Also in typical KAPOW fashion is its imaginative presentation, told like a story offered person-to-person. Costume changes happen before your eyes, and the road trunks onstage act not only as places to hold clothing, but as buses, bar tables or whatever else the actors need that scene. Audience chairs will be configured so they're right up onstage with actors.

"In one of our very early rehearsals, Rich referred to it as two Irish guys sitting at a bar telling each other stories. That's very much how it feels. They're always Jake and Charlie, and they take on these other personas as the show goes on. But we never lose Jake and Charlie," Cahoon said.

The real kicker for actors is that, along with so many lines and so many characters, they also have to learn many Irish dialects. Josephson joked he'd found himself muttering different Irish accents to himself in the grocery store the other day. They've also been listening to the accents via CDs.

"We did *Penelope* a couple of years ago, which was an Irish comedy, but you can do it without worrying about accents. You change two or three words and it's an American script. You can't do this play without the accents. The accents are part of the story, actually," Josephson said.

Hurley said he grew up in an Irish family near Boston and heard a lot of Irish accents growing up, but the challenge is making them sound authentic.

"I think I grew up with the Americanized Irish brogue, which you know, sometimes can be over-the-top leprechaun-y, and that's what I don't want to do," Hurley said.

Sets will include artificial grass to offer an Irish countryside feel, plus a house foundation and movie prop corner. David Brown from the New Hampshire Philharmonic will be on stage playing the fiddle, and lighting will feature both traditional theater and TV styles, which will flip-flop throughout the play to help indicate when the camera's rolling in the story.

There are poignant and dark moments within the piece as well, but that's what company members like about it.

"I like the Irish nature of the play. There's just something tragic and comic about the Irish people in general," Hurley said. "It has very very dark moments that are played as funny sometimes, too, and that's the way the Irish people are."

See *Stones in His Pockets*

Where: Stockbridge Theatre, Pinkerton Academy, 5 Pinkerton St., Derry
When: Friday, Feb. 26, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 27, at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 28, at 2 p.m.
Admission: $20
Contact: tkapow.com

20 Theater
Includes listings, shows, auditions, workshops and more.
To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

22 Art
Includes listings for gallery events, ongoing exhibits and classes.
To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

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Theater

Productions

• ***TINKER TO EVERS TO CHANCE*** Merrimack Repertory Theatre production. Feb. 10 through March 6. Merrimack Repertory Theatre, 50 E. Merrimack St., Lowell. $23-$60. Visit mrt.org. Call 978-654-4678.

• ***THE DESPERATE HOUR*** Original play by George Hosker-Bouley. Comedy about old drama, play within a play. Feb. 19 through March 6. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. West End Studio Theatre, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth. $18. Call 978-683-7745.

• ***ANTIGONE*** Players' Ring benefit show. Feb. 12 through Feb. 28, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 7 p.m., with a 2 p.m. matinee Sun., Feb. 28. Players' Ring, 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth. $15. Visit playersring.org. Call 436-8123.

• **DORKS IN DUNGEONS** Season 4, episode 6. Improv comedy show based on *Dungeons & Dragons*. Fri., Feb. 26, at 8 p.m. 3S Artspace, 319 Vaughan St., Portsmouth. Pay-what-you-can at the door, $12 in advance. Visit 3Sarts.org. Visit dorksindungeons.com.

• ***THE MARVELOUS WONDERETTES*** Revue portraying high school classmates with a gleeful parade of pop music from the 1950's and 1960's. Set designed by Ben Hart and Brandon James, who created sets for *Oliver!* and directed/designed sets/costumes for *Avenue Q*. Feb. 26 through March 20. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Seacoast Repertory Theatre, 125 Bow St., Portsmouth. $14-$35. Visit seacoastrep.org. Call 433-4472.

• ***STONES IN HIS POCKETS*** Theatre KAPOW production. Olivier Award-winning play by Marie Jones. Fri., Feb. 26, at 7:30 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 27, at 7:30 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 28, at 2 p.m. Stockbridge Theatre, 5 Pinkerton St., Derry. $20. Visit tkapow.com.

• ***HAIRSPRAY, JR.*** Palace Youth Theatre. Fri., Feb. 19, at 7 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 20, at noon; Fri., Feb. 26, at 7 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 27, at noon. Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. $14. Visit palacetheatre.org. Call 668-5588.

CURTAIN CALL

Notes from the theater scene

• **Iconic clothing:** Generic Theater presents Nora and Delia Ephron's *Love, Loss, and What I Wore* March 4 through March 20 at The Players' Ring, 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth. The play is based on the best-selling book by Ilene Beckerman and looks at women, clothes and the memories certain clothes can trigger. Beckerman's book inspired the Ephrons to interview women all over the country about this idea, and they collected stories about shirts, shoes, bras, boots, dresses and handbags. They shaped those stories into a combination of monologues, scenes and voices. Generic Theater director Helen Brock cast eight women of various ages to show the universality of this idea. Showtimes are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 7 p.m., with a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday, March 20. Visit playersring.org or call 436-8123.

• **Burst pipes, no heat:** Two pipes at the Manchester Community Music School burst last week due to below-freezing temperatures and caused significant damage to the music therapy wing and archive room at the school, flooding eight first-floor rooms within minutes, according to a press release. Crews ripped out carpets, and staff are in the midst of rearranging work spaces and sessions to minimize disruption to music therapy families. It will be several weeks before the damage is completely evaluated, and until then, the school is collecting donations with the hope to rebound as quickly as possible. Visit mcmusicschool.org.

The Seacoast Repertory Theatre in Portsmouth is also looking to raise money for a new HVAC system for heat and air conditioning, part of a five-year facilities improvement plan. According to

Susan Turner as Gingy in Generic Theater's production of Love, Loss, and What I Wore. Courtesy photo.

the fundraising page, generosity.com/community-fundraising/heat-ac-for-the-seacoast-rep, the company's air conditioner died last summer, and there hasn't been a solid heating system the last eight years. Visit seacoastrep.org.

• **Audition calls:** The New Hampshire Theatre Factory is looking for actors ages 18 and older for its spring production, *Amadeus,* which will happen at the Jefferson Mill Building, 670 N. Commercial St., Manchester, on Sunday, March 13, at 7 p.m. Rehearsals will start April 17 and performances are Friday, June 3, and Saturday, June 4, at the Derry Opera House. Those auditioning should prepare a monologue and be familiar with the play. Sign up for a slot by emailing info@nhtheatrefactory.org. Visit nhtheatrefactory.org for more information.

The Palace Theatre is holding youth auditions for all ensemble roles in its professional production of *Billy Elliot* (though this is not a call for the leading role, Billy Elliot). Performers should be between the ages of 8 and 18 and be ready for auditions Saturday, March 19, at 9 a.m., at the theater, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. All will dance first, and those called back should have 16 bars of a song prepared; bring sheet music. All girls must have dance training and be 5'2" or shorter. Sign-ups are required; call 668-5588. Email meganquinn@palacetheatre.org. The show runs June 3 through June 25. — *Kelly Sennott*

• **THE GREAT AMERICAN MAGIC, COMEDY AND VAUDEVILLE SHOW** Starring Alexander Feldman as Alex the Jester. Sat., Feb. 27, at 7 p.m. Concord Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. $15. Call 344-4747.

• **ABSOLUTELY MAGIC** Great American magic, comedy & vaudeville show. Alex Feldman, Andrew Pinard, Brent and Maya McCoy. Sat., Feb. 27, at 7 p.m. Gibson's Bookstore, 45 S. Main St., Concord. $15. Visit absomagic.com.

• ***STRANGER THAN FICTION: DEAD PRESIDENTS*** Improv comedy group show, includes comedy battle starring dead presidents. Featuring NHPR host/*Dead Presidents* author Brady Carlson. Tues., March 1, at 8 p.m. Seacoast Repertory Theatre, 125 Bow St., Portsmouth. $12. Call 433-4472.

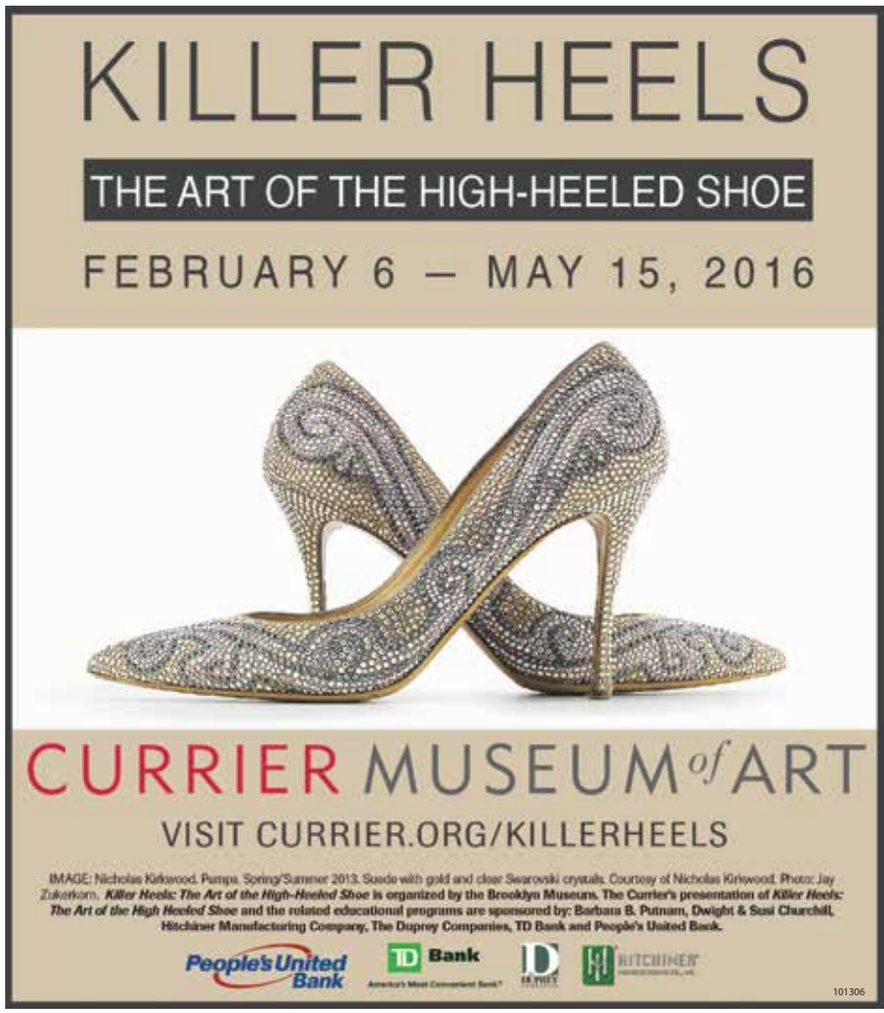
• ***THE ALTOS*** Majestic Theatre production. Audience-participation murder mystery. Fri., March 4, at 7 p.m.; Sat., March 5, at 7 p.m.; Sun., March 6, at 1:30 p.m. Executive Court Banquet Facility, 1199 S. Mammoth Road, Manchester. $42 Friday/Saturday, $38 Sunday. Visit majestictheatre.net, call 669-7469.

• ***ROCK OF AGES*** Palace Theatre production. March 4 through March 26. Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. $25-$45. Visit palacetheatre.org. Call 668-5588.

• ***MARY POPPINS*** Windham High School performance. Fri., March 11, at 7 p.m.; Sat., March 12, at 7 p.m.; Sun., March 13, at 7 p.m.; Fri., March 18, at 7 p.m.; Sat., March 19, at 7 p.m. Windham High School, 64 London Bridge Road, Windham. $15.

• ***NOISES OFF*** Milford Area Players production. March 11 through March 20. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Amato Center for the Performing Arts, Route 13N, Milford. $15. Visit milfordareaplayers.org.

• ***THE STAR SPANGLED GIRL*** Leddy Center production. March 11 through March 20, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Sundays and one Wed., March 16, at 2 p.m. Leddy Center for the Performing Arts, 38C Ladd's Lane, Epping. $20. Call 679-2781. Visit leddycenter.org.



Under the radar

Christina Pitsch on residencies, working and laying down roots

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

From the "Objects of Love and Desire" series. Courtesy photo.

"Re.covered." Courtesy photo.

New Hampshire sculptor and mixed media artist Christina Pitsch has traveled all over the world for artist residencies, her most recent being a three-month stint at the European Ceramic Workcentre in the Netherlands.

That art center was located near bucolic farms and a German nature preserve, and while she was there, she experimented with and modified her technical process.

Pitsch has spent a lot of time away from home the past several years — other recent residences were at the Clay Studio in Philadelphia and the New Art Center in Newton, Mass. But her home space is here in Manchester, within a warehouse next to Club ManchVegas.

"I tend to fly a little bit under the radar in Manchester. Most of my work is elsewhere. I've actually been in and out of the area for quite some time, but I don't know a lot of people in the area, believe it or not," Pitsch said.

But that's about to change. Pitsch has finally decided to settle in for a little bit — or, at least for six months. When she arrived home in December, she began prepping for a group show at the University of New Hampshire in Durham: "Natural Wonder," on view now through April 3. She participates in another exhibition in Boston this fall.

"I've made a commitment to start showing a little bit more in the area. That's when I joined a gallery in Boston, to lay down a bit more roots," Pitsch said. "This has turned into a nice home base for me because I do tend to show in a lot of different places, and I like to travel a fair amount for my work, but Manchester gives me a home base that's close to friends and family. … And for what I do and the amount of materials I work with and the kind of square footage I need for mocking up installations, it's really hard to be in a place like New York or Boston."

At the time of her interview, Pitsch was in the process of unpacking crates and readying for an in-studio, behind-the-scenes tour of her workspace on Wednesday, Feb. 24, for the UNH exhibition.

The results of her residency work were scattered on tabletops and shelving, but most were in crates. Tour participants will see hers isn't an organized, clean art-making process, but she's learned to embrace it.

"Sometimes it's not pretty, and that's totally OK," Pitsch said. "The studio's a funny place. I've had a lot of people come to my workspace over the past couple years, and they expect it to look like a museum or a gallery."

Much of Pitsch's artwork is like sculptural collage, made with found objects — except that most of the objects aren't really found, but cast in porcelain, plastic or plexiglass, made to look like those original objects. She utilizes myriad techniques to pull it all together, including ceramics and printmaking.

"One of my friends who was in my studio last year — we were looking to get ready for a show — said, 'You're kind of like an assemblage artist, but all the parts you make yourself,'" Pitsch said.

Which, she agreed, is pretty accurate. The art is the combination of those pieces, which, more recently, have commented on gender dynamics and cultural iconography.

"Natural Wonder" has four of her pieces on display, and one, "Re.covered," is a taxidermied deer head with a sewn vinyl slipcover on top and porcelain birds adorning its antlers. It's all set against a gigantic doily.

"It's enormous. It's meant to be ridiculous, and it is. It's like six feet wide," Pitsch said.

Another piece is a hanging chandelier that, instead of candles, holds porcelain deer hooves.

"That's very much about … objects we fetishize, like the rabbit's foot," Pitsch said. "I remember as a kid loving those, and I knew they were real, but I was never processing how totally grisly it is."

She began delving into these ideas while in grad school in upstate New York, a rural area infused with a hunting culture and, oftentimes, a stereotypical gender divide.

"I had a truck at the time, and everywhere I would go, people would say, 'Oh what a big truck,' or, 'Your boyfriend's truck is so nice.' There was this assumption that an object has that association," Pitsch said.

An upcoming project, still in development, features a gigantic wall of assembled chinoiserie, using porcelain cast cardboard and artificial flowers, an "intersection of highbrow and lowbrow." When completed, it will be an interconnected series of tiles that will go up in Boston this September.

"Sometimes there are people I meet and they think of my work being more abstract, but I deal with a lot of representational imagery, and I'm always hoping to tweak it and combine it in some ways, but it's often born out of these very concrete reference points," Pitsch said. "I'm constantly looking at the world around me — the things that happen, the stories I respond to, historical things that interest me. And this is my way of telling new stories."

See "Natural Wonder"

Where: Museum of Art, University of New Hampshire, Paul Creative Arts Center, 30 Academic Way, Durham
What: The exhibition, curated by gallery director Kristina L. Durocher, features artwork by Christina Pitsch, Shelley Reed, Rick Schaefer and Randal Thurston that reinterprets visual and literary symbolism in material culture, in reference to humankind's complex relationship with nature.
Contact: 862-3712, unh.edu/moa, christinapitsch.com

Art

Events

• **DRAWING IN THE GALLERIES** Draw in galleries, get inspired by artist/art center faculty member John O'Shaughnessy. Thurs., Feb. 25, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. Flat rate $5 admission. Visit currier.org. Call 669-6144, ext. 108.

• **BUILD-A-THON** Build sculpture that can withstand slight breeze, using various blocks. Fri., Feb. 26, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. Flat rate $5 admission. Visit currier.org. Call 669-6144, ext. 108.

• **LEAGUE OF NH CRAFTSMEN ZENTANGLE DAY** With Maya Hardcastle. Sat., Feb. 27. Zentangle Basics class 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Zen Gems class 1:30-3:30 p.m. League of NH Craftsmen Meredith, 279 DW Highway, Meredith. $25 for basics class, plus $12 materials. Zen Gems class $30, plus $12 for materials. Call 279-7920. Visit nhcrafts.org/meredith.

• **TONY JONES** NHIA presents Manchester Vision 20/20 speaker, part of school series. Lecture is "Art+People+Money: Chicago's Cultural and Economic Engine, Millennium Park." Thurs., March 3, at 7 p.m. New Hampshire Institute of Art, 148 Concord St., Manchester. Free. Call 836-2547.

• **ROCK THE RUNWAY FASHION SHOW** Philanthropy, fashion, food, appetizers, silent auction. Wed., March 9, at 6:30 p.m. Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. $50 VIP (2 drinks, preferred seating), $40 general admission. Visit palacetheatre.org.

Fairs

• **UNIQUELY NH WINTER MARKET** Sat., Feb. 27, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bedford Fields Home & Garden Center, 331 Route 101, Bedford. See bedfordfields.com.

Open calls

• **OPEN CALL: "MANCHESTER'S IMMIGRANTS: THEN AND NOW"** Manchester Historic Association seeks photos for upcoming exhibition. Show goes up March 9. Millyard Museum, 200 Bedford St., Manchester. Visit manchesterhistoric.org. Call 622-7531.

• **CALL FOR ARTISTS** Looking for entries for Third Annual Meredith Sculpture Walk. Sculptures will be positioned in 32 highly-visible locations throughout Main St., Lake Winnipesaukee and Mine Falls

LOCAL COLOR

NH art world news

• **Lovely opening:** A couple hundred artists and art-lovers braved negative temperatures Valentine's Day weekend to come to the opening reception of the Nashua Area Artist Association's current exhibition, "Love of My Life," which is up through March at the group's ArtHUB gallery, 33 Temple St., Nashua. On view are pieces in which member artists explored subjects like romantic, family, friend, nature and animal love. Participants come from all over New England, and media ranges from paint, photography and pastel to illustration, 3-D art and jewelry. Viewing hours are Thursdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visit NAAA-ArtHub.org.

• **Winter art show:** Creative Framing Solutions, 83 Hanover St., Manchester, creativeframingsolutions.com/events, hosts a "Winter Collaborative Art Exhibition" at the gallery space now through the end of the month with a reception this Saturday, Feb. 27, from 6 to 9 p.m. On view will be a variety of colorful artwork to warm up the chilly month, from paintings and pressed flowers to ceramics and glass art. Call 320-5988.

• **Expansion at NHIA:** The New Hampshire Institute of Art plans to remodel its Sharon Arts Center in Peterborough, which the school acquired in 2012, according to a recent press release. The remodeling represents a multi-year plan by NHIA to invest and expand programs at SAC, which has been part of the arts community in the Monadnock region for more than 60 years. SAC currently houses a gallery, fine arts and crafts retail store, studios and teaching facilities, with renovations estimated at $300,000, more than half of which has already been raised. NHIA continues to seek additional funding to complete the project, offering donors naming rights for the newly renovated gallery spaces. The new designs will allow more exhibitions in this location with museum-quality lighting, new flooring and adjoining restroom facility upgrades. The gallery and retail store close this February for renovations and will re-open mid-May.

"NHIA has experienced remarkable forward progress in the last few years. Investing in the Sharon Arts Center is very much part of our overall goal to use the arts to engage with the communities we serve," Kent Devereaux, NHIA president, said in the release. "I am pleased that we have seen tremendous support from the local community for this project, and I'm confident that others in the Monadnock region will step forward with the funding we need to complete the renovations." Visit nhia.edu.

— *Kelly Sennott*

A painting by Marilene Sawaf, on view at ArtHUB. Courtesy image.

Marketplace. Submissions due by March 31. Meredith, NH Meredith., Email meredithsculpturewalk@metrocast.net. Call 677-2298.

Openings

• **"LETINSKY + MARCUSE: A STILL DIALOGUE"** SNHU exhibition. Curated by Vanessa Rocco. On view Feb. 25 through April 2. Reception Thurs., Feb. 25, 5-7 p.m. McIninch Art Gallery, 2500 N. River Road, Manchester. Visit snhu.edu, call 629-4622, email m.gallery@snhu.edu.

Workshops/classes

• **EARRINGS IN A DAY** League of NH Craftsmen class. Taught by Joy Raskin. Sat., Feb. 27, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The Craft Center, 49 S. Main St., Concord. $85. Visit nhcrafts.org.

• **NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP SERIES** Presented by David Saxe, USA Aloft, LLC. Have camera make and model available when you register. Sat., Feb. 27, noon-4 p.m.; Sat., March 5, noon-4 p.m. Massabesic Audubon, 26 Audubon Way, Auburn. $150. Visit usaaloft.com/courses. Call 668-2045.

• **UKRAINIAN PYSANKY BATIK EASTER EGGS** Modified easter egg-making workshop. Materials provided. Sat., March 12, 10 a.m.-noon. Creative Ventures Gallery, 28 NH-101A, Amherst. $25. Visit creativeventuresfineart.com. Call 672-2500.

In the Galleries

• **JOANNE GAUTHIER** Featured artist for February. On view through February. Rodgers Memorial Library, 194 Derry Road, Hudson. Visit rmlnh.org/events. Call 886-6030.

• **"GREAT MAIL DAY"** Mail art exhibition. On view Feb. 5 through Feb. 27. Studio 550, 550 Elm St., Manchester. Visit 550arts.com. Call 232-5597.

• **"TREES"** Camera Commons photography show. On view Feb. 8 through April 2. Camera Commons Gallery, 652 Central Ave., Dover. Visit cameracommons.com.

• **"FROM LAND TO SEA: CONTEMPORARY WORKS BY WILLIAM DAVIS"** On view Feb. 14 through April 30. New Hampshire Antique Co-op, 323 Elm St./Route 101A, Milford. Call 673-8499.

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HAPPY HEELS

The Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St., Manchester, currier.org, 669-6144) hosts a program, "Relax and Enjoy the Shoe," on Thursday, March 3, from 6 to 9 p.m., which is all about relaxing and exploring shoes, according to the press release. Event attendees can sample wines from LaBelle Winery and spirits from Djinn Spirits, and they can learn the stories behind the shoes with UNH faculty member Dr. Kimberly Alexander. There will also be live music by M.B. Padfield, a cash bar and tour of the museum's most recent exhibition, "Killer Heels: The Art of the High-Heeled Shoe." The event is free with museum admission ($12 for adults, $10 for seniors, $9 for students, $5 for youth), but there's a special $8 charge for nonmembers to view the exhibition.

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ERS FOR THE DIGITAL AGE" Artists and designers present powerful visual statements addressing range of pressing issues, global warming to freedom of expression. Jan. 15 through Feb. 27. Lamont Gallery, 11 Tan Lane, Exeter. Visit exeter.edu/lamontgallery.

• **ADELAIDE MURPHY TYROL, SUSAN WAHLRAB** Art exhibition. On view through Feb. 26. McGowan Fine Art, 10 Hills Ave., Concord. Call 672-9898, ext. 3.

• **PAMELA R. TARBELL** Abstract art show. on view Jan. 13 through March 27. Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, 1 Medical Center Drive, Lebanon. Visit pamtarbell.com.

• **"SUPERTOUCH: A MODERN GIG POSTER RETROSPECTIVE"** Featuring work by 40 gig poster artists from 20 states representing hundreds of bands. Curated by Dylan Haigh. On view Feb. 19 through Feb. 28. 3S Artspace, 319 Vaughan St., Portsmouth. Visit 3Sarts.org.

• **NAAA 8X8 FUNDRAISER AUCTION** Nashua Artists Association show. Proceeds benefit the organization. Showcasing pieces mostly in the 8X8 size. On view now through February. ArtHub, 30 Temple St., Nashua. Visit naaa-arthub.org. Visit nashuaareaartistsassoc.org.

• **"GROUNDSWELL"** Featuring work by Sophia Ainslie, Nathan Miner, Christi Rinklin, whose paintings originate from specific locations and sets of conditions used as departure points to explore perception, memory, history, motion. On view through April 3. Paul Creative Arts Center, 30 Academic Way, Durham. Visit unh.edu/moa. Call 862-3712.

• **"WINTER 15/16 EXHIBIT"** Featuring art by more than 2 dozen artists. On view Dec. 4 through Feb. 26. The Gallery at 100 Market St., 100 Market St., Portsmouth.

• **"THE BOSTON SCHOOL: 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY PAINTINGS"** On view Feb. 14 through April 30. New Hampshire Antique Co-op, 323 Elm St./Route 101A, Milford. Call 673-8499.

• **CAMERA COMMONS** Platinum and alternative prints by Tillman Crane, Jay Goldsmith, Norman Defosses, David Speltz. On view Jan. 17 through April 2. Side Gallery, 652 Central Ave., Dover. Call 799-1941. Email vanloon42@gmail.com.

• **"THE FEBRUARY PROJECT: IMAGES WITH BRUSH, WORDS & LENS"** By John Sirois, Sandy Sirois, Carolyn Gregsak. On view Feb. 20 through March 31. Hancock Town Library, 25 Main St., Hancock. Call 525-4411.

• **"DIFFERENT ROOTS, COMMON DREAMS: NEW HAMPSHIRE'S CULTURAL DIVERSITY"** Featuring photographs by Becky Field. On view Feb. 1 through March 18. Derryfield School Lyceum Gallery, 2108 River Road, Manchester. Visit derryfield.org, differentrootsnh.com.

• **"NATURAL WONDER"** Art show featuring work by Christina Pitsch, Shelley Reed, Rick Shaefer, and Randal Thurston. On view through April 3. Paul Creative Arts Center, 30 Academic Way, Durham. Visit unh.edu/moa.

• **"INSIGHTFUL!"** Touchable art, presented by League of NH Craftsmen and NH Association for the Blind. On view Feb. 2 through March 9. Portsmouth Public Library, 175 Parrott Ave., Portsmouth. Visit cityofportsmouth.com/library. Visit facebook.com/pplnh.

• **ANDRE BERTOLINO** Art show. On view through February. The Place, 9 N. Main St., Concord. Call 227-6148.

• **"BLACK AND WHITE"** Seacoast Artist Association exhibition. On view thorugh Feburary. Seacoast Artist Association Gallery, 225 Water St., Portsmouth. Call 778-8856.

Classical Music Events

• **NEW ENGLAND BRASS** Concert, "New England Brass Goes to Broadway." Fri., Feb. 26, at 8 p.m. Keefe Auditorium, 117 Elm St., Nashua. $25. Visit nashuacommunityconcerts.org. Call 318-1792.

• **JIM BRICKMAN** Concert. Sat., Feb. 27, at 7:30 p.m. Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. $45.50-$75.50. Visit palacetheatre.org. Call 668-5588.

• **LOWELL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA FAMILY CONCERT** "Jubilation." Featuring work by Beethoven, Holst, Chadwick, Bantock, Puccini. Sun., Feb. 28, at 2 p.m. St. Louis School Church, 77 Boisvert St., Lowell. $10. Visit lowellphilharmonic.org.

• **UNH TRADITIONAL JAZZ SERIES: CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE TRIO** Mon., Feb. 29, at 8 p.m. Paul Creative Arts Center, 30 Academic Way, Durham. $8. unh.edu, 862-2404.

• **UNH CONCERT BAND, WIND SYMPHONY** Free concert. Tues., March 1, at 8 p.m. Paul Creative Arts Center, 30 Academic Way, Durham. Visit unh.edu/music. Call 862-2404.

• **UNH JAZZ BAND, NATHAN JORGENSEN** Concert. Wed., March 2, at 8 p.m. Paul Creative Arts Center, 30 Academic Way, Durham. Visit unh.edu/music. Call 862-2404.

• **R.P. HALE, MASTER MUSICIAN** Concert. Performance and lecture highlighting his handmade harpsichord and hammered dulcimer. Wed., March 2, at 7:30 p.m. Concord Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. Free. Visit walkerlecture.org.

• **HEALTH AND WELLNESS DRUM CIRCLE** Learn about rhythms, drumming, benefits and applications of music. No prior training necessary. Thursdays, Jan. 28-April 7. 5:15-6 p.m., except Feb. 11, Feb. 25 and March 31. Manchester Community Music School, 2291 Elm St., Manchester. $100 per semester, $15 drop-in. Call 644-4548.

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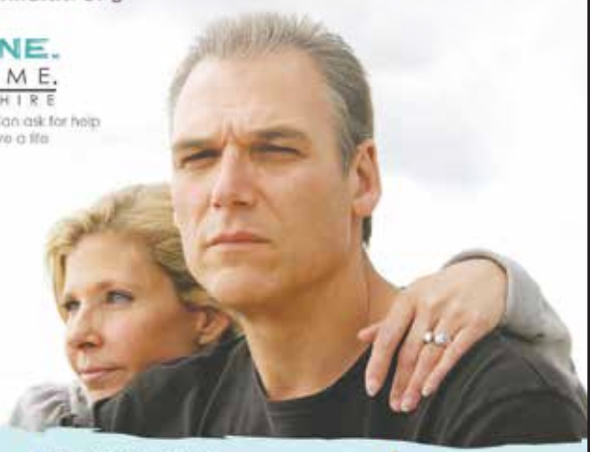

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Get Listed

From yoga to pilates, cooking to languages to activities for the kids, Hippo's weekly listing offers a rundown of all area events and classes. Get your program listed by sending information to listings@hippopress.com at least three weeks before the event.

Looking for more events for the kids, nature-lovers and more? Check out **Hippo Scout**, available via the Apple App Store, Google Play or online at hipposcout.com.

INSIDE/OUTSIDE

Kids welcome at the winery

LaBelle Winery hosts Winter Family Fun Fest

By Angie Sykeny
asykeny@hippopress.com

A snowshoe tour of LaBelle's vineyard. Courtesy photo.

Grown-ups aren't the only ones who can have fun at a winery — on Saturday, Feb. 27, LaBelle Winery in Amherst will host its annual Winter Family Fun Fest.

"People may not think of a trip to the winery as a family activity, but there's so many fun things for families and children to do here in the winter," said Michelle Thornton, LaBelle director of sales, business and program development.

The Beaver Brook Association will be running a kids' corner throughout the day, starting at 11 a.m., with crafts and activities. There will be a see-and-touch display with bird feathers and other objects from nature for kids to explore, and naturalists will share fun facts about wildlife and how animals survive the winter months. Kids can also learn about winter birding and may even go on a birding excursion around the winery property. There will be make-and-take craft projects like winter bird feeders and window ornaments to help prevent bird window strikes.

Students from the New Hampshire Institute of Art will be on site all day doing elaborate face paintings.

"It's not your ordinary face painting," Thornton said. "The sky is the limit. If a kid wants something in particular, they get it. You should see some of the designs they do."

Visitors can watch a demonstration of how liquid nitrogen ice cream is made, then sample the finished product with Sub Zero Ice Cream & Frozen Yogurt. Fuller's Sugarhouse from Lancaster will be there serving up authentic maple sugar snow cups until 3 p.m.

"'Authentic' is a big deal." Thornton said. "You have to have the right syrup and the right temperature, and Fuller's is very serious about it. Families and kids look forward to it, and for a lot of them, it's the first time they've ever tried it."

The LaBelle Bistro will be open all day with its regular winter menu as well as some Winter Family Fun Fest specials suited for kids. Families on the go can choose from a selection of boxed lunches that contain a sandwich, fruit, homemade cookie and a beverage.

Every hour from 12:15 to 3:15 p.m., LaBelle's vineyard manager, John Temchak, will take visitors on a tour of the vineyards and explain the overwintering process of the grapevines. Beaver Brook will provide snowshoes for the tours.

New to the fest this year, the Pontine Theatre will perform a 12-minute puppet show based on e.e. cummings' short story "The Little Girl Named I" at 12:30 p.m.

At 12:45 p.m., visitors can snowshoe or hike down to the lower field for a bonfire and s'mores-making. S'mores kits will be provided while supplies last.

Those who bring their own sleds can close out the day with some sledding on the famous Bragdon Farm sledding hill located behind the winery.

"Anyone who grew up in this area knows it's the most spectacular sledding hill around," Thornton said.

Since its first Winter Family Fun Fest four years ago, LaBelle has continued to add more family-friendly programming to its calendar. The plan, Thornton says, is to have a Family Fun Fest every season.

"Families come here all the time, so we want to give them [events and activities] that are wholesome and educational for the children," she said. "There are so many educational components like our vineyard and our farm where we grow veggies for our bistro, and kids love to come here and explore all that."

Winter Family Fun Fest

Where: LaBelle Winery, 345 Route 101, Amherst
When: Saturday, Feb. 27, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Cost: Free admission
Visit: labellewinerynh.com

Children & Teens

Art classes & programs

• **BRING A GROWNUP DAY** Adults and kids ages 10 and up are invited to an art class where they can create a 16" x 20" painting of Jar Jar Binks, a character from the *Star Wars* movies. No experience necessary; the class will teach the basics of color, form and line techniques as well as how to use acrylics and brushes. Saturday, Feb. 27, from 1 to 4 p.m. League of NH Craftsmen Nashua Retail Gallery, 98 Main St., Nashua. The cost is $40 for the first student and $25 for each additional student. Call 595-8233 or visit nhcrafts.org/nashua.

Children events

• **MAPLE EXPRESS** Take a horse-drawn carriage ride to a sugar shack where a professional sugar maker will give a tour and talk. Then, see how trees are tapped for syrup and try the syrup on pancakes. Open 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sat. and Sun. from March 5 to 20. Plan on spending at least two hours. Charmingfare Farm, 774 High St., Candia. $19 per person, free for babies under 1. Maple syrup and other maple products will be available for purchase. Visit visitthefarm.com.

Teen events

• **TEEN CUPCAKE WARS** Decorate a cupcake to try and win a prize. Materials provided, but extra decorations or supplies are allowed. Fri., Feb. 26, from 3 to 4 p.m. Wadleigh Memorial Library, 49 Nashua St., Milford. Free. Call 249-0645 or email refdesk@wadleighlibrary.org to sign up. See wadleighlibrary.org.

Clubs

Events

• **THE COUNTRYSIDE TRAIL RIDERS POTLUCK** A group of local equestrians is holding its mid-winter potluck. All are welcome. Sat., Feb. 27, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Baldwin Center, Fox State Forest, 309 Center Road, Hillsborough. Call Ann at 478-1178.

• **NASHUA GARDEN CLUB MEETING** Early Spring Wildflowers of Southern NH. Wed., March 2, 7 p.m. First Baptist Church, 121 Manchester St., Nashua. Visit nashuagardenclub.com.

Continuing Education

Certificate/degrees

• **WORKREADYNH** Class at NHTI where participants earn certifications and improve skills.

KIDDIE — POOL —

Family fun for the weekend

Fairy fun

The first floor of the Kimball Jenkins Estate (266 N. Main St., Concord) will be transformed into an elegant setting for the **Fairy Tea Party** on Sunday, Feb. 28, from 2 to 4 p.m. The party includes a story time, a take-home art project and tea, hot cocoa, juice and light refreshments. You can arrive in a fairy costume, your favorite party dress or whatever makes you feel elegant. This party is for kids ages 2 through 12 accompanied by an adult. Preregistration is required. Call 225-3932 or visit kimballjenkins.com/fairy.

Things that fly

Join Amoskeag Fishways (4 Fletcher St., Manchester) on Saturday, Feb. 27, from 10 a.m. to noon for a **Backyard Winter Birds** program. Learn about the many species of birds that stay in New Hampshire during the colder months, then make a bird feeder to take home. The cost is $3 per person or $6 per family. Preregistration is required. Call 626-3474 or visit amoskeagfishways.org.

The Aviation Museum of New Hampshire (27 Navigator Road, Londonderry) is having a special children's program on Friday, Feb. 26, at 11 a.m. There will be a story time to get kids excited and inspired about **the world of aviation**, followed by a paper airplane building and flying project. Stick around afterward for a tour of the museum. This program is free with the cost of museum admission, which is free for kids under 12 with a paying adult. Call 669-4820 or visit nhahs.org.

Special visitors

Don't miss award-winning **children's musician Steve Blunt** as he performs a show with songs, laughter and fun for the whole family at the Concord Public Library Auditorium (45 Green St., Concord) on Friday, Feb. 26, from 2 to 3 p.m. Call 225-8670 or visit onconcord.com.

If you're at the mall this weekend, be sure to pay a **visit to the Easter Bunny**.

Visitors show off their paper airplanes at the Aviation Museum of NH in Londonderry. Courtesy photo.

The bunny will be available for photos with kids on Friday, Feb. 26, at the Pheasant Lane Mall (310 Daniel Webster Hwy., Nashua) in the North Court in front of Dick's Sporting Goods, and on Saturday, Feb. 27, at The Mall at Rockingham Park (99 Rockingham Park Blvd., Salem) in the Level 1 JCPenney Court. Visit simon.com.

Star Wars art

It's Bring a Grownup Day at the League of NH Craftsmen Nashua Retail Gallery (98 Main St., Nashua) on Saturday, Feb. 27, from 1 to 4 p.m. Adults and kids ages 10 and up are invited to an art class where they can create a 16" x 20" **painting of Jar Jar Binks**, a character from the *Star Wars* movies. No experience is necessary; the class will teach the basics of color, form and line techniques as well as how to use acrylics and brushes. The cost is $40 for the first student and $25 for each additional student. Call 595-8233 or visit nhcrafts.org/nashua.

Build or ball

Stop by the Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St., Manchester) on Friday, Feb. 26, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., for a **Build-A-Thon** family program. Visitors of all ages will use various blocks to build a sculpture that can withstand a slight breeze. There will be prizes for all participants. This activity is free with the museum's $5 general admission fee. Visit currier.org or call 669-6144.

Kids in grades 3 through 8 are invited to compete in a **basketball free throw contest** at Beech Street School (333 Beech St., Manchester) on Friday, Feb. 26, from 10 a.m. to noon. The contest is free to enter. Sign up the same day at the school. Call 624-6470 or visit manchesternh.gov/youth.

This program gives job-seekers the edge in finding employment. Next session starts Feb. 29 and ends March 18. NHTI, 31 College Drive, Concord. Free. Call 271-6484 or email nicol@ccsnh.edu.

Health & Wellness

Parenting

• **WHOLESOME BABY FOOD** Maggie Mead, author of The Wholesome Baby Food Guide will share ways to prepare and store baby food. Sun., March 6, from 3 to 5 p.m. The Culinary Playground, 16 Manning Street, Suite 105, Derry. Cost is $45. Visit culinary-playground.com.

Workshops & seminars

• **HEALTHY BLOOD SUGAR CONTROL: A SUPERMARKET GUIDE TO MONITORING CARBOHYDRATES** Identify food sources with carbs and learn how to balance during the day for optimum effect on blood sugar levels. Includes guided tour of Hannaford supermarket. Thurs., March 3, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. St. Joseph Hospital, 172 Kinsley St., Nashua. Free. See stjosephhospital.com or call 595-3168.

• **IGT/PREDIABETES CLASS** This 90-minute class is designed

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Thoughts of Charles Darwin

On the evolution of plants and trees

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com

I have great respect for Charles Darwin. He was a scientist who traveled around the world, observed nature, kept great records, collected specimens, applied logic and came up with a theory that changed how we see the world. He wrote *The Origin of Species* in 1859, which presented, clearly and forcefully, the theory that became known as evolution.

Darwin postulated that from time to time plants and animals had mutations that made them more or less competitive than others of their species. Those that were better able to survive had more progeny and their changes were more likely to persist and dominate. "Survival of the fittest" became a mantra of scientists that we've all heard.

On a recent walk in the woods I pondered Darwin's ideas. At the forest floor I observed just one species of fern, the Christmas fern. It was everywhere. Its greenery presumably was using February sunshine to produce food for its roots. I know there are many other ferns in the woods, but all the others had lost their leaves and were dormant. Using sunshine in winter must be an evolutionary advantage.

Next I reflected on the wildflowers I love. Early spring bloomers like hepatica are short and bloom before forest trees have leaves. Fall bloomers like goldenrod and cardinal flower are taller. Why is that? They may have evolved in competition with grasses and other tall plants that would shade out shorter things. Plants seem to time their blooming so that they will survive and thrive.

I have often wondered why young beech trees and some oaks hold onto their leaves until spring. Researching this online, I found a fabulous article in Northern Woodlands magazine by Vermont forester Michael Snyder. He explained that the first prehistoric trees were all evergreen, and that deciduous trees developed later. In cold regions such as ours, shedding leaves helps to minimize water loss and damage due to the cold.

The process of holding onto brown leaves until spring is called marcescence. Snyder postulated several reasons why this ability to hold onto leaves might be an advantage. First he noted that dropping leaves in spring might provide some organic matter as mulch just when a growing plant needs it. Leaves left on the ground all winter would be further along in the decomposition process. In my view, that doesn't make sense; trees that are growing green leaves need nitrogen, and brown leaves have little to offer. Nitrogen usually off-gasses when leaves turn brown, going back to the atmosphere. Sure, organic matter in the form of carbon does enrich the soil, but that is a slow process.

Christmas Fern. Courtesy photo.

Snyder wrote that some other researchers suggest the leaves might help to trap snow in winter, thus retaining water. That does not match with my observations. Others suggested that the leaves might provide some protection to leaf buds against the cold. Again, that is not logical to me. Lastly, he proposes that the leaves might be a deterrent to hungry deer browsing tips of branches, removing leaf buds in winter. Yes, that makes a certain amount of sense to me.

Most trees are adapted to thrive either in sun or shade, but not both. The Canadian hemlock, one of the most common trees in my environment, can grow pretty much anywhere — full sun to full shade (though it does not do well in soggy soil). I can see why it is so common in the wild. But it does not do well with road salt or pollution. Will this tree develop new varieties that are tolerant of human interference? Remember that evolution is very slow, often taking millions of years to create new species.

In marketing circles the promoters of a new product are always looking for a "market niche." It seems that plants do much the same. They "look for" a place where other plants don't want to be or can't succeed.

A great example of a plant market niche is on bare rocks. With no soil what self-respecting plant would want to grow there? Enter the lichens. These are relatively primitive living things that can survive on bare rock in full sun. Technically, they are not even plants.

Lichens are two life forms living together in a symbiotic relationship: fungus and algae or cyanobacteria. Those latter beings can, by photosynthesis, produce food; the fungus provides structure and moisture it gathers. Each species helps the other, and is helped by it. What an amazing evolutionary miracle! Together these living creatures have evolved the ability to live from Antarctica to tropical jungles. Lichens cover roughly 6 percent of our land mass, so I guess they've had good luck finding market niches.

So go for a walk and ponder the miracles of life. And try to figure out why beeches and oaks hold onto their leaves. If you come up with a new theory, be sure to let me know.

Henry is a UNH Lifetime Master Gardener. His website is Gardening-Guy.com.

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IN/OUT TREASURE HUNT

Dear Donna,

I'm hoping you can help. Would you know anything about this tool? We have been guessing within my family and would like to see what you have to say. It's 18 inches long, steel with wooden handle. Thanks for any help you can give us.

Brian from Milford

Dear Brian,

Thanks for including me in the guessing game for this item. This is what half the fun is about antiques — figuring out what some of them are and then for what use.

Your tool is actually an antique cheese tester from the early 1900s. It was made to screw down into a cheese wheel or block to test if the cheese was ready. Once the tool was in it would remove a cylindrical piece of cheese and bring it out for testing. They still use similar pieces today for testing cheese. The value on antique ones such as this is about $60.

You don't see them often and probably wouldn't pay too much attention if you did among so many tools out there. I'm not sure where yours came from, but I can say that it was probably very useful to someone, and with a good cleaning it still could be used today.

Donna Welch has spent more than 20 years in the antiques and collectibles field and owns From Out Of The Woods Antique Center in Goffstown (fromoutofthewoodsantiques.com). She is an antiques appraiser and instructor. To find out about your antique or collectible, send a clear photo of the object and information about it to Donna Welch, From Out Of The Woods Antique Center, 465 Mast Road, Goffstown, N.H., 03045. Or email her at footwdw@aol.com. Or drop by the shop (call first, 624-8668).

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• **DROP-IN MEDITATION CLASS** Weekly meditation practice class. Instructor will guide the group in a variety of mindfulness meditations. This class is for anyone, regardless of your experience with meditation. Wear loose, comfortable clothes, bring along a yoga mat, pillows, blanket, cushion, etc. or anything else you may need for your comfort. Chairs are provided. Thurs., 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., March 17 through April 21; and May 5 through 26. Bedford Town Hall, 70 Bedford Center Road, Bedford. Suggested donation of $5 to $10 per class and can be paid by cash or check to the instructor. Visit BedfordRecOnline.com.

• **WOMEN'S HEALTH SERIES** Informal discussions on current health trends topics include mindfulness, heart care, and food as medicine. Third Wed. of the month. O Steaks & Seafood, 11 South Main St., Concord. Classes $10, $30 for entire series. Call 230-7300 to register.

Exercise & fitness

• **ZUMBA** Taught by YMCA instructors. Class meets in the gym. Fri., 8:45 to 9:45 a.m. through April 22. Wilson Elementary, 401 Wilson St., Manchester. There is also a class on the second Wed., 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., through May 11. Beech Street Elementary, 333 Beech St., Manchester. Free. Visit manchesternh.gov.

Blood drives

• **RED CROSS MONTH BLOOD DRIVES** March is American Red Cross Month. Show your support by donating blood. Statewide Red Cross blood donation opportunities held March 1 through 15. Call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit redcrossblood.org/donating-blood for dates, times and locations and to schedule an appointment.

Marketing & Business

Marketing workshops

• **WHOLESALE SUCCESS WORKSHOP** Workshop for farmers and wholesale buyers. Training will cover identifying target customers, differentiating your farm in the market, working with buyers, good business practices, market demands' effect on packing/sorting produce, and cost-effective and scale appropriate post-harvest handling systems. Thurs., March 3, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. NH Audubon, 84 Silk Farm Road, Concord. Registration is required. The program cost is $20 and will include lunch as well has a *Wholesale Success* manual. Visit the Conservation District website at merrimackccd.org.

Personal finance workshops

• **TAX HELP** AARP Foundation provides free Federal and State e-filing to the elderly and low/moderate income families. IRS Certified tax preparers are ready to help get you the largest refund possible. Bring your original social security card(s)s for yourself and your spouse (if you're married) and all your dependents, a photo ID for you and your spouse (if you're married) and all your W-2's and health insurance information together with any other tax documents. Tues., 5 to 8 p.m., at Easter Seals, 555 Auburn St., Manchester; Wed., 5 to 8 p.m., at Families in Transition, 394 Second St., Manchester. Manchester, NH, 03101 Manchester., Schedule online at NHTaxHelp.org or call 2-1-1 for an appointment.

• **TAX HELP** Volunteers from the AARP will be at the library to help senior citizens and low to moderate income taxpayers of all ages with their federal tax returns. Tax assistance volunteers do not, however, help prepare Schedule C over $10,000 in expenses, Schedule E, complicated/lengthy

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SCREEN GEM

Neil Young's surreal 1982 comedy ***Human Highway*** will finally get a nationwide theatrical release on Monday, Feb. 29, 7:30 p.m. at Cinemagic (1226 Hooksett Road, Hooksett). It will be paired with his 1979 concert movie *Rust Never Sleeps* and a Q&A with Young and *Human Highway* cast members Charlotte Stewart, Russ Tamblyn and Devo's Gerald Casale conducted by Cameron Crowe. *Human Highway* tells the story of a group of regulars at a small-town diner/gas station, with a nuclear power plant accidentally triggering the end of the world.

Schedule D forms without proper paperwork, or other specialized forms. Taxpayers with complex tax forms are advised to seek paid tax help. Mon. and Sat., through April 11 (except March 12, and April 9). Rodgers Memorial Library, 194 Derry Road, Hudson. Go to rmlnh.org/events or call the library to make an appointment. Walk-ins welcome if space is available. Call 886-6030.

Miscellaneous

Card, board & dice games for adults

• **ADULT GAME NIGHT** Round up some friends to compete in Super Smash Bros. for Wii U on the big screen, or bring your own system and get others to play. Play board games including Pictionary, Blokus, Cranium, Apples to Apples, and Scrabble; or bring whatever you and your friends like to play. Open to adult 18 and up. Mon., Feb. 29, 7 to 9 p.m. Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St. , Nashua. Free. Snacks are provided. If you have a Wii U controller bring it along. Visit nashualibrary.org.

• **WEEKLY CRIBBAGE LEAGUE** Weekly Cribbage League in Merrimack. Wednesday nights. Starts between 5:15 and 5:45 p.m. League runs through April. VFW, 282 Daniel Webster Highway, Merrimack. Cost $5/week with weekly payouts for top teams. For more info, contact Scott at 429-9521 or mortimer@gmail.com.

• **DUNGEONS & DRAGONS GAME NIGHT** Ongoing 5th edition D&D campaigns. Meets once a month. Open to teens and adults. Refreshments provided. First Tues., 5 to 7:30 p.m. Concord Public Library , 45 Green St. Concord. Call 225-8670.

• **GAMING DAY** Join Play Date NH as they teach an assortment of new board games, card games and role playing games. Second Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. Rodgers Memorial Library , 194 Derry Road, Hudson. Call 886-6030.

Comic book events

• **QUEEN CITY KAMIKAZE** Comic convention for fans of anime, video game, comic book, cosplay, sci-fi and fantasy. There will be cosplay games and contests, video game tournaments, a dance hall, artists, vendors, retro gaming and more. Sat., March 12, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Manchester Memorial High School, 1 Crusader Way, Manchester. Admission costs $10. Visit queencitykamikaze.com.

Pets

• **DOG TRAINING SEMINAR** Professional dog trainer, author, and international presenter Grisha Stewart will teach a seminar on how to build a reliable relationship with your dog. It focuses on fundamental techniques and ideas to put you in a better position to train at home or in group classes with a local dog trainer. Open to the public as well as professional dog trainers, veterinarians, dog walkers, etc. Mon., Feb. 29, 7 to 9 p.m. NH SPCA, 104 Portsmouth Ave, Stratham. $59. Visit grishastewart.com.

Museums & Tours

History & museum events

• **HISTORY OF THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN** Learn about the history of the Tuskegee Airmen, the first African-American military aviators in the U.S. armed forces. Members of the Col. Charles McGee and New England Chapters of the Tuskegee Airmen from Hanscom Air Force Base and Boston will present the program. Lt Col. Enoch Woodhouse II (Ret.), one of the original airmen, will be in attendance. Sun., Feb. 28, 2 p.m. Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua. Free and open to the public. No registration required. Call 589-4610.

Tours

• **GUIDED GALLERY TOUR** Enjoy a guided tour of the New Hampshire Historical Society's exhibitions. Find out more about New Hampshire's "Temple of History" and hear stories about the objects on display that make their history come alive. Sat., March 12, 2 p.m. New Hampshire Historical Society, 30 Park St., Concord. Included in the price of paid admission. Visit nhhistory.org.

Nature & Gardening

Birding events

• **BACKYARD WINTER BIRDS** Learn about the many species of birds that stay in New Hampshire during the colder months, then make a bird feeder to take home. Saturday, Feb. 27, from 10 a.m. to noon. Amoskeag Fishways, 4 Fletcher St., Manchester. The cost is $3 per person or $6 per family. Preregistration is required. Call 626-3474 or visit amoskeagfishways.org.

Gardening & farming

• **COMMUNITY SCALE PERMACULTURE** Josh Trought, author of "The Community-Scale Permaculture Farm," tells the story of D Acres, a permaculture farm here in New Hampshire. His talk will be followed by a potluck to continue the discussion. Sat., Feb. 27, 4 p.m. Urban Forestry Center, Urban Forestry Center, Portsmouth. There is a suggested donation of $5-20. Find more info at meetup.com/Seacoast-NH-Permaculture.

Nature art & photography

• **NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP SERIES** Presented by David Saxe, USA Aloft, LLC. Have camera make and model available when you register. Sat., Feb. 27, noon-4 p.m.; Sat., March 5, noon-4 p.m. Massabesic Audubon, 26 Audubon Way, Auburn. $150. Visit usaaloft.com/courses. Call 668-2045.

Nature hikes & walks

• **WORDLESS WALKS** Walk through the woods silently with a group to become more connected to yourself and to nature. Wed., March 2, and Tues., March 22, 9 to 10 a.m. Mine Falls Park entrance, Nashua. Free. Visit dianemackinnon.com.

Other outdoors

• **WIND, WATER, FIRE AND ICE** The Little Nature Museum is sponsoring an illustrated program about the history of selected natural disasters and how forests respond accordingly. Sat., Feb. 27, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Hopkinton Town Library, 61 Houston Drive, Contoocook. For more, call 746-6121.

Ready to fly

NH's fly fishing expo returns

A previous Fly Fish New Hampshire Show. Courtesy photo.

By Angie Sykeny
asykeny@hippopress.com

Though most bodies of water are still covered in ice, fly fishing enthusiasts can get an early jump on their spring fishing preparations at the Fly Fish New Hampshire Show, hosted by the Merrimack River Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, on Saturday, Feb. 27, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Executive Court Banquet Facility in Manchester.

The event attracts more than 1,000 attendees from across New England for a day of fly fishing exhibitors and vendors, seminars and demonstrations. Now in its 14th year, Fly Fish NH is the only annual expo in the state that is dedicated exclusively to fly fishing.

"Once April comes around, fly fishing season starts," said Ron Sowa, show coordinator and MRVTU president. "So, we do this in the wintertime to put out information and give attendees a chance to see the dealers' new products for the year and ask fly fishing guides about their favorite fishing areas or the best type of equipment to use."

The expo will have 36 exhibitor and vendor booths where visitors can learn about fly fishing organizations and clubs, classes and workshops, trips and experiences, guide services, custom equipment manufacturers and more. Local retailers will be there with a wide selection of products for sale, including the essentials like fly rods, reels, lines and fly lures, as well as accessories like knives, fly-tying tools, luggage and clothing.

Throughout the day, there will be 45-minute educational seminars on a variety of topics such as fishing for salmon and steelhead; the hatch and body language of trout for choosing the right patterns; fishing in the Androscoggin River in New Hampshire, Salmon River in New York or the trout waters of Maine; and a fly fishing guide's innovative approach to guiding on the region's waters out of a drift raft.

Visitors can also learn hands-on skills like how to tie a fly and how to fly cast, which will be demonstrated all day.

Fly Fish NH is one of MRVTU's primary fundraising events. Proceeds are used for projects that help protect and improve cold water fishing resources in New Hampshire. They also fund MRVTU's Kids' Trout Camp, a five-day camp held in Pittsburg where kids ages 12 to 17 learn the art and science of fly fishing and environmental stewardship.

> "This show is ... full of information for anyone who is thinking of fly fishing."
>
> RON SOWA

"Fly fishing is a growing industry and hobby," Sowa said. "The show is great and full of information for anyone who is thinking of fly fishing, but the biggest thing is that all the money we make from the show is put back into the community, to restore the trout streams, and for kids who want to learn and find out more about fly fishing."

Fly Fish New Hampshire Show

Where: Executive Court Banquet Facility, 1199 S. Mammoth Road, Manchester
When: Saturday, Feb. 27, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Cost: Admission costs $7, free for kids age 12 and under accompanied by an adult
Visit: merrimacktu.org, or find Fly Fish New Hampshire Show on Facebook

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Slipping transmission needs to be replaced

By Ray Magliozzi

Dear Car Talk:

We love our 2000 Volvo V70 and know she's getting old and in need of some TLC. We use her mainly as an in-town second car, and as a tow vehicle when traveling. Her transmission, a five-speed automatic, slips periodically, but she has only 207,000 miles. We had the tranny "superflushed" with new fluid about 10,000 miles ago. We would like to keep her for another four or five years, driving less than 10,000 miles per year, before reinvesting in another used Volvo. Is it safe to keep using this car if the tranny slips periodically? We've had no problems on the highway. We've been quoted about $1,600 for a used tranny and about $3,000 for a new Volvo one. We have been advised against any rebuilt transmissions. Your advice would be appreciated immensely. — Bill

Here's the problem: A transmission with 207,000 miles on it that's slipping is not to going get better.

If you really want to keep this car for another 40,000 or 50,000 miles, you're going to need a transmission. And you might as well do it now, and stop suffering the anxiety of wondering when this one is going to wet the bed.

I'd look for a used transmission. Assuming you don't buy one with 208,000 miles on it, there's a good chance it'll get you through to graduation.

Reputable junk yards these days (and no, that's not an oxymoron) keep very good records of where parts come from. So they should have the vehicle identification number of the car's transmission, as well as the mileage. And the really reputable places will give you a guarantee on the part and even the labor. That's what you want.

So if you find a good transmission with, say, 120,000 miles on it, it could easily last you four or five years. It might not, but keep in mind that you can buy two of them for the price of a new transmission.

And yes, to answer your other question, it can be dangerous to drive a car with an unreliable transmission. Think about the classic case of making a left turn across oncoming traffic. If your transmission picks that moment to slip badly or fail, a FedEx truck could make a personal delivery into your passenger seat.

So consider a used transmission with a good guarantee. And if you're not comfortable taking a chance on a used transmission, then get the new one. Three thousand dollars actually is a good price. The rebuilt Volvo transmissions we install typically cost the customer about $4,500, including labor. Of course, at our shop, that includes a new pine-tree air freshener — which, with 207,000 miles, I'm sure your car could use, too, Bill.

Dear Car Talk:

OK, so my cruise control is set, the car is moving at its set speed, and I apply the brake. The cruise control disengages and the car slows down. Scenario 1: I apply gentle pressure on the accelerator to slowly return to my desired speed (as if there were an egg between my foot and the pedal) before turning the cruise control back on. Scenario 2: I click the cruise control's "resume" button to return to the desired speed. The car accelerates much, much faster than it does when I accelerate it manually. Which way is more economical — the cruise control's way, or my way? — Richard

Your way. The "resume" feature of cruise control used to be a whole lot worse, actually. In the old days, you'd hit "resume," the transmission would downshift a gear or two, snap your head back, dump your hot coffee in your lap and make you hold on for dear life.

Back then, there was a vacuum-operated device that, when you hit "resume," would yank on the bell crank of the throttle, opening it instantly to the position where it should be for your desired speed — say, 65 mph. And if you were going 40 at that moment, and suddenly the throttle were open to where it needs to be for 65, the acceleration would be pretty intense.

These days, cruise controls are smarter and smoother, because throttles are all computer-controlled. Most people don't even realize there is no longer any physical or mechanical connection between the gas pedal and the throttle. Instead, the computer measures the position of your gas pedal, sends a signal to a small motor inside the throttle, and that motor moves the throttle plate. And the computer-controlled motor can move the throttle far more smoothly and gradually than the old vacuum-operated yanker.

But, no matter what technology you're using, accelerating gently always is better for the car. So if your foot can accelerate the car more gently than your cruise-control system can, and you're not ticking off your spouse or an angry, sleep-deprived truck driver behind you, gentle foot pressure is the way to go, Richard.

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IN THIS SECTION

34 On The Job

This week, meet Adele Maurier, design coordinator at SEE Science Center in Manchester.

JOBS/CAREERS

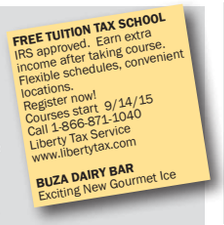
Bringing job seekers and companies together

Looking for work? Trying to hire people? Use Hippo's Jobs/Careers section.

► TWO WAYS TO USE HIPPO'S JOBS/CAREERS PAGES:

1. SEND IN A JOB LISTING

Hippo's weekly job listings are a great way to get info about your opening in front of our audience of 205,000 people in southern N.H. They're text-only, maximum 35 words—and best of all, they're **FREE**. :) See this week's Job Listings page for details on how to submit your info for publication.



2. RUN A KICK-ASS DISPLAY AD

Having a job fair or open house? Not getting quality candidates from look-alike online job postings? Display ads can drive attendance at recruiting events, and grab the attention of great people—even those who aren't actively looking, but would consider a good opportunity if they come across it.

For more about how to use Hippo to recruit great employees in New Hampshire, call Jeff Rapsis at (603) 236-9237.

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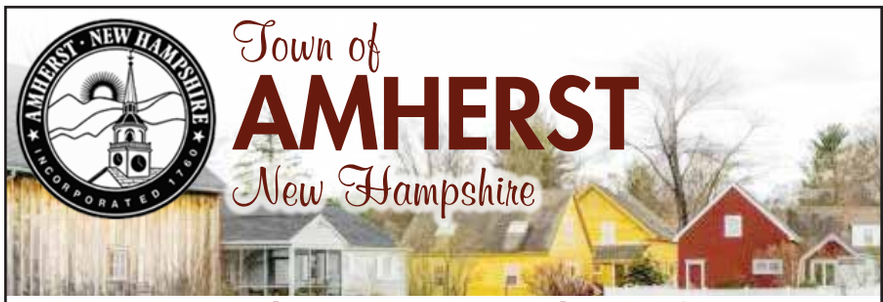

Town of AMHERST New Hampshire

Environmental Programs Coordinator/Assistant Public Works Director

With a population of 11,685, and land area of nearly 35 square miles, Amherst, New Hampshire is a growing rural-suburban community nestled in the south central part of Hillsborough County. The Town has a rich colonial history, and the Amherst Village Historic District is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Amherst is home to unique natural resources, including Ponemah Bog Wildlife Sanctuary, Hodgman State Forest, the Joe English Reservation and Baboosic Lake.

The Town of Amherst offers a rewarding career building opportunity for an exceptional individual to fill a newly created managerial position within the Department of Public Works.

Minimum qualifications include

- Valid New Hampshire Professional Engineer's License (within the first year of hire) & six years of progressively responsible civil engineering and public works.
- Utilities experience.
- A minimum of two years management and/or supervisory level experience.
- A valid Class C driver's license with a good driving record.

The Town Of Amherst is a affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.
A complete job description and application for employment are available on line at www.amherstnh.gov.
Please forward a completed Town of Amherst employment application (must be included for consideration), cover letter and resume to:

Amherst Department of Public Works
Attn: Bruce W. Berry Director | 22 Dodge Road, Amherst, NH 03031

105759

35 JOB LISTINGS

Looking for work? Need employees? Check out Hippo's free job postings, available for a limited time only.

N.H. JOB FACTS:

Local unemployment rates:

- Concord.....2.9%
- Dover.....2.9%
- Laconia.....3.2%
- Manchester.....3.5%
- Nashua.....4.1%
- Portsmouth.....2.4%
- Rochester.....3.2%
- Statewide.....3.6%

Source: N.H. Department of Employment Security statistics for August 2015.

THIS WEEK IN JOBS / CAREERS

If you're looking for work or interested in making a career change, this week's Hippo has a wide range of opportunities for you to explore:

• **Whole Foods** is recruiting staff for its brand new store in Bedford, scheduled to open its doors in April. Join a company with a great brand that's on the move in our area. (Page 33)

• **The Town of Amherst** is recruiting for Assistant Public Works Director, a key management position. It's a great municipal government opportunity with a highly regarded community. (Page 33)

• **Dartmouth-Hitchcock** is seeking recruits for a 12-week Medical Assistant Apprenticeship program to start this spring. (Page 34).

• At **NHTI**, get inspired for a new career by checking out an eight-week program scheduled to start on March 14. Education could be the pathway to a lucrative new career. (Page 34)

• Want to get skills and increase your earning power? Check out programs and opportunities offered by the **School of Mechanical Trades**. (Page 34)

• **Easter Seals** is looking for a people in a wide range of skill areas to help them provide professional services to clients all across New Hampshire. Make a real difference in the lives of people in our communities. (Page 35)

• And you'll see plenty of job openings in our free line ads. (Page 35).

• And a reminder to all recruiters: Hippo is continuing a special pricing offer for all Jobs / Careers display ads. With an audience of 285,000 people, Hippo can help supercharge your applicant pool by connecting you with new candidates in a tight hiring market. For more information, call Jeff Rapsis at (603) 236-9237.

ON THE JOB

ADELE MAURIER

DESIGN COORDINATOR AT SEE SCIENCE CENTER

Adele Maurier's 16-year career at SEE Science Center in Manchester began after she volunteered at the museum's DINOSAURS exhibit. Now she works with various aspects of museum operations and has even penned SEE's first educational book, *We Thought You'd Never Ask!*, which teaches kids about dinosaurs.

Q: ***Explain in one sentence what your current job is.***

To further the mission of the SEE Science Center … by doing whatever needs to be done, but my primary responsibility is to promote SEE through communications, and I'm involved with the education staff and development staff working with events, so it's pretty much all hands on deck.

How long have you worked there?

Since 2000.

How did you get interested in this field?

I went to Saint Anselm College. ... I was a natural science major, but took courses in communications, art, many diverse classes. When I graduated, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do, but I wanted a career path that was interdisciplinary, and a science museum offers that.

What kind of education or training did you need for this job?

The job has evolved over time, and I've really learned from the senior staff … who showed me what SEE is all about. I had some on-the-job training and also [learned from] the Association of Science-Technology Centers … which has some great conferences for science museums, to help us solidify what we're doing and how we want to move forward.

Adele Maurier

How did you find your current job?

One of the career/employment counselors [at college] recommended I try some volunteer work … so I started volunteering for the DINOSAURS exhibit that [SEE] has every two or three years. Then, I started working part time at the exhibit, and when it closed, I was given the opportunity to work here [full time], and the job grew into a career.

What's the best piece of work-related advice anyone's ever given you?

The best and hardest advice is that sometimes you need to let an idea go. If you try your best and it doesn't work out, learn from it and move on to the next good idea.

What do you wish you'd known at the beginning of your career?

I think that when you're coming out of college, it's important to know that every job gives you an opportunity to grow. You don't have to be ready for everything at the first moment, but allow yourself to be open to change and growth with the organization you're with. Go with the flow, I guess.

What is your typical at-work uniform?

We wear our SEE polo shirts, and comfy shoes are a must.

What was the first job you ever had?

I worked at Angela's Pasta and Cheese Shop. — *Angie Sykeny*

Five favorites

Favorite book: *No Word for Good-bye* by John Craig.
Favorite movie: *A League of their Own* and *Field of Dreams.* As you can see, I'm a big baseball fan.
Favorite type of music or musician: It depends on my mood. A lot of classics like The Beatles, sometimes more contemporary music, classical music if I'm writing.
Favorite food: French fries
Favorite thing about NH: It's not too big and not too small.

WORKFORCE READINESS INSTITUTE
Dartmouth-Hitchcock

Ready for a new opportunity? Want to launch a new career in healthcare?
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- Preparation for Clinical Medical Assistant Certification Exam

Education provided at no cost

To learn more about Dartmouth-Hitchcock visit dartmouth-hitchcock.org

The Dartmouth-Hitchcock Workforce Readiness Institute Training Program is offered in partnership with:

Vermont HITEC · Burlington College · Registered Apprenticeship · New Hampshire Charitable Foundation · NHES · nhworks

This program is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. Equal Opportunity is the law. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability or genetics.

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CAREERS, JOBS & GIGS

Deadline is ***FRIDAY AT NOON*** for the following week's issue. Job ads will be published in Hippo and online at hippopress.com full paper app. Only local job ads placed by local companies will be published for free. Job ads to be published at the discretion of staff. Job ads must be e-mailed to classifieds@hippopress.com to qualify for free promotion.

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weekly DISH

News from the local food scene

By Allie Ginwala
food@hippopress.com

• **Robie's reopens:** Roots Cafe and Catering at Robie's Country Store (9 Riverside St., Hooksett, rootscateringnh.com) welcomes guests to celebrate its opening in the historic country store during an open house on Saturday, Feb. 27, from 6 to 9 p.m. featuring singer Alli Beaudry. The event is open to the public (free for children, $10 for adults) and offers the chance to sample food from the menu along with a cash bar. "A lot of the people in the community have helped us along this process and we wanted to [say] a thank you to all of the work that they've done," co-owner Josh Enright told the Hippo. "We wanted to have a celebration," co-owner Amber Enright added.

• **New at the kitchen:** Celebrations Kitchen (1017 Second St., Manchester, celebrationskitchen.com) announced in a press release that Manchester Mayor Ted Gatsas will attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new location on Friday, March 4, at 2:30 p.m. "For the past 25 years, Celebrations Catering has had the privilege of coming into your home and business for your special events," chef and owner Fred Manheck said in the press release. "With the opening of Celebrations Kitchen, we will welcome you into our home for the high-quality food you have come to know." Celebrations Kitchen serves breakfast, lunch and dinner as well as a weekly dinner-for-four special for $30.

• **Dine with winter brews:** Great North Aleworks is teaming up with Thirsty Moose Taphouse (83 Washington St., Dover, thirstymoosetaphouse.com) for A Smoky Winter's Night beer dinner on Wednesday, March 2, from 6 to 9 p.m. The curated five-course menu features smoked lamb chops, smoked salmon salad, smoked pork chops, blackberry barbecue beef tournados and old-fashioned doughnuts, each paired with a different Great North Aleworks beer. Tickets cost $65. Call 842-5229.

• **Fermenting fun:** Join Flag Hill Winery & Distillery (297 N. River Road, Route 155, Lee, 659-2949, flaghill.com) owner-winemaker-distiller Brian Ferguson for Exploring the Fun Behind Fermentation, the next installment of the Flag Hill educational series on Thursday, March 3, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. The 21+ event costs $30 per person, reservations required. Other upcoming classes focus on distillation and the art of pairing food and wine.

• **Get your garden growing:** On Tuesday,

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Looking for more food and drink fun? Check out **Hippo Scout**, available via the Apple App Store, Google Play and hipposcout.com.

FOOD

Heartfelt sips

Hospital hosts benefit wine tasting

By Allie Ginwala
aginwala@hippopress.com

Toasting Heart of the Grape. Courtesy photo.

The only thing better than heading out for an evening of sampling from a selection of 150 wines is doing it for a good cause. On Friday, March 4, Concord Hospital is hosting Heart of the Grape, a wine tasting event that benefits the hospital's Breast Care Center.

The decade-old event began after the hospital created the breast care center, one of its community benefits with many programs in need of philanthropic support.

"One was this genetic counseling program," said Jessica Bailey, events associate for Concord Hospital Trust. "So that's what the funds for this event support."

In its early years the event drew a couple hundred people but more recently it has seen around 500. In order to break up the numbers attending at one time and also to appeal to different levels of wine drinkers, Heart of the Grape features three components of tasting — the main event, VIP and Grape Expectations.

Martignetti Companies of New Hampshire provides the different varieties of wine to pour among 12 tables in the main tasting. Local restaurants, such as O Steaks and Seafood, Firefly Bistro and Granite Restaurant, are given creative freedom to decide what bites they want to offer as samples.

"[Guests are] definitely not going to be able to taste every [wine], so we hand out a program booklet with a listing and what tables they'll be at," Bailey said.

The next-level tasting ticket is for the VIP event, which allows people to come an hour early in a smaller setting to sample high-quality wines before the Heart of the Grape main event.

"They get to enjoy the wines with less of a crowd and we offer higher-end wines and it's in a ballroom-type room," she said.

The final component is Grape Expectations, which was added to the event a few years ago. It's a wine-glass seminar, and attendees will learn about how the taste of a wine is affected by the glass in which it's served. This year a representative from Riedel will lead the event, and guests get to take four Riedel tasting glasses home with them.

"Our hope was to be able to pull in [many people]," Bailey said, and also to give wine aficionados an experience beyond the main tasting event.

Heart of the Grape Wine Tasting

When: Friday, March 4. VIP and Grape Expectations from 6 to 7 p.m., main event tasting from 7 to 9 p.m.
Where: The Courtyard by Marriott Grappone Conference Center, 70 Constitution Ave., Concord
Tickets: $35 main event, $75 VIP, $100 Grape Expectations
Visit: giveto.concordhospital.org

Made of maple

Take maple syrup beyond the kitchen table

By Allie Ginwala
aginwala@hippopress.com

If you think of maple syrup just as a sweetener to pour over pancakes, then the contents of Casey Elsass's new cookbook may surprise you. *Maple Syrup*, the first cookbook from the Nashua native, was released by Short Stack Editions on Feb. 15, and every recipe is dripping with maple inspiration.

"My list went through a lot of iterations before it got whittled down," Elsass said in a phone interview. "[I] noticed that it was naturally falling into this pattern of breakfast and vegetables and meats and drinks, and that just seemed to me like a logical way to take maple syrup through a variety of applications and times of the day."

The cookbook is divided into five sections — breakfast, veggies, meat & fish, dessert and drinks — each with four recipes. Some reflect his New England upbringing, like the baked French toast his mother makes at Christmas and his stepfather's pancakes, while others were developed as a way to "break away from the confines of a pancake box."

"I always wanted to honor my New England heritage and explore New England recipes [but] also bring in other influences," he said, noting the chicken wings with miso and scones with Guinness and whiskey.

"I wanted to look to a broader picture as I was developing these recipes and let maple syrup start [intertwining] with more global influence too," Elsass said.

At first blush, some of the recipes seem like a surprising outlet for maple syrup (who'd have thought to pair maple with a lobster roll or daiquiri?), but Elsass said he wanted to embrace the versatility of maple syrup.

"I think it's important to acknowledge that sweet doesn't need to be synon-

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More maple

Can't get enough maple syrup? The New Hampshire Maple Producers Association presents the 21st annual Maple Weekend on Saturday, March 19, and Sunday, March 20. Visit local sugar houses to see the centuries-old craft in action, and enjoy plenty of sweet treats and activities. For updates, visit nhmapleproducers.com.

The classic breakfast, pancakes with maple syrup. Courtesy photo.

◂36 ymous with sweet things," he said. "You can have a very savory dish that has a sweet component with it and instead of taking over the dish it heightens it."

A natural sweetener, maple syrup draws flavor notes from where it was produced, so a New Hampshire maple syrup will taste different from a maple syrup from Vermont or Canada. You can begin to unpack maple syrup's terroir, Elsass said (borrowing the wine term) once you explore different varieties and grades.

"You start to click into the subtleties and variances," he said.

He said maple syrup has been pigeonholed by many as a breakfast condiment in part because folks outside of New England aren't familiar with real maple syrup.

"A lot of people don't eat real maple syrup," he said. "Maple syrup product does not have the complexity of flavor that a real, well-produced maple syrup does."

He thinks any expert kitchen should have a bottle of maple syrup on hand and use it in cooking the way you would any other herb or spice.

"It should be in the vocabulary of cooking," he said.

For the two audiences picking up his cookbook — those who know the pure deliciousness that is real maple syrup and those who don't — Elsass thinks two recipes will come as a surprise.

For the latter group (and maybe even for some of the former), it's definitely the traditional sugar on snow. It calls for lots of fresh snow, maple syrup, sliced dill pickles and plain cake or potato doughnuts. Along with laying out the steps of heating and pouring the maple syrup Elsass writes about the tradition in New Hampshire and how to experience the dish to its fullest.

Elsass's maple sage daiquiri. Courtesy photo.

"We all know [it] so well, but it seems so wild and foreign, especially the pickle, to people who haven't lived that tradition," he said.

As for those who are familiar with real maple syrup but want to explore it in a new flavor profile, Elsass thinks the maple sage daiquiri will be a nice surprise.

"Rum, lime juice, maple syrup and sage, which aren't flavors you might think go well together, but let me tell you, it's very drinkable and very delicious," he said.

Maple-sage daiquiri
From Casey Elsass's Maple Syrup

2 ounces light rum
1 ounce lime juice, freshly squeezed
2 torn sage leaves, plus one for garnish
1 ounce maple syrup

In a cocktail shaker, combine the rum and sage leaves and let rest for 10 minutes. Add the lime juice and maple syrup and fill with ice. Shake hard for 30 seconds or until the shaker is frosty and cold. Strain into a rocks glass. Slap a sage leaf between your palms to activate the flavor and aroma, then rest it on the surface of the drink and serve.

To find the cookbook online or in stores, visit shortstackeditions.com.

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IN THE KITCHEN WITH GARRETT POWELL

From bussing tables when he was 10 years old to opening the Epping location of Tortilla Flat Mexican Restaurant and Cantina (1-11 Brickyard Square, Epping, 734-2725, tortillaflatmexican.com) in early 2014, Garrett Powell was destined to work in the family business. His father and uncle opened the first Tortilla Flat in Vermont in the late 1960s, and today the family-run business maintains locations in Merrimack, Epping and Portland, Maine. Given the growing popularity of Mexican cuisine and increased competition in the state, Powell said he does like to branch out with his specials but will never deviate from the restaurant's staple menu items.

What is your must-have kitchen item?
A pot stove/cooking range, for all of our beans and sauces.

What would you choose for your last meal?
Beef fajita.

What is your favorite restaurant besides your own?
Tuckaway Tavern. I'm a big steak-eater.

What celebrity would you like to see eating at your restaurant?
[British chef] Marco Pierre White.

What is the biggest food trend in New Hampshire right now?
Mexican is right up there. Mexican is very trendy right now. You can do it so many different ways and you can do it healthy. Being healthy is what attracts a lot of people right now.

What is your favorite meal to cook at home?
Rib-eyes on the grill.

What is your favorite dish on your restaurant's menu?
Puerco verde grande burrito.
— Allie Ginwala

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Ancho chile sauce

From the kitchen of Tortilla Flat

3 tomatillos
5 ancho chiles
3 tomatoes
6 garlic cloves
1.5 cups water
1 tablespoon salt
1 tablespoon oregano

Cut tomatillos and tomatoes in half and roast until skin peels off. Simmer garlic in a sauce pan with a small amount of oil until golden brown, then add water and ancho chiles and simmer until chiles are soft. Add remaining ingredients and simmer to a paste. When finished, mix all ingredients in a blender to create a smooth sauce. Recommended to pair with a beef entrée.

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Food

Chef events/special meals

• **THE STONE FARM CONSERVATION BENEFIT** Live jazz music and NH wine tasting, appetizers, chocolate desserts, olive oil and balsamic vinegar samples. Sat., Feb. 27, from 6 to 8 p.m. Dunbarton Congregational Church meetinghouse, 6 Stark Highway North, Dunbarton. Tickets cost $15. See dccucc.org.

• **THE FARMERS DINNER TAQUERIA** Pop-up taqueria with The Farmers Dinner chef Keith Sarasin, Riverside Barbecue pitmaster and owner Dave Manganello, bartenders Patrick Andrew of Baldwin Bar in Woburn, Mass., and Jeremy Hart of Codex in Nashua. Sun., Feb. 28, at 4:30; Mon., Feb. 29, at 7 p.m. Riverwalk Cafe, 35 Railroad Sq., Nashua. Cost is $45. See thefarmersdinner.com.

• **GOURMET FESTIVAL AND AUCTION** The theme for the 28th annual event is "There's No Place Like Home." Featuring food and spirits from more than 20 area chefs and beverage vendors plus a silent and live auction. Proceeds benefit families in the community at risk of homelessness. Sun., March 20, from 4 to 8 p.m. Nashua Country Club, 25 Fairway St., Nashua. Early bird tickets (before March 7) cost $85, after costs $100. Purchase at eventbrite. See gourmetfestival.eventbrite.com.

• **FIRE AND FUSION: EXECUTIVE CHEF COMPETITION** 4th annual event where eight executive chefs compete using four secret ingredients. Evening begins with appetizers for guests. Wed., May 4, from 6 to 9 p.m. Alpine Grove Banquet facility, 19 S. Depot Road, Hollis. Tickets cost $35 per person. VIP tickets for $50. See nashuaseniorcenter.org.

• **GUEST CHEF SERIES** At Row 34. Each week, a guest chef will prepare a la carte dishes that represent their culinary style alongside the regular menu. Tuesdays through March during dinner service from 5 to 10 p.m. Row 34, 5 Portwalk Place, Portsmouth. See row34nh.com.

Fairs/festivals/expos

• **SPRINGTIME RESTAURANT WEEK** In the Monadnock region. Includes Peterborough, Rindge, Jaffrey, Hancock, Marlborough, Dublin, Fitzwilliam, Hillsborough and Temple. Over 25 restaurants offering prix fixe menus for lunch (two courses) and dinner (three courses). Fri., April 1, to Sun., April 10. Priced per meal. See springtimerestaurantweek.com.

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FOOD

Foodie twofer

Two food festivals, one weekend

Chocolate teacups at 1785 Inn. Barbara Sisson photo.

By Allie Ginwala
aginwala@hippopress.com

Head north for a weekend of chili and chocolate in the Mount Washington Valley as two annual February festivals invite folks to get out and sample both savory and sweet.

Marti Mayne, PR manager for the Mount Washington Valley Chamber of Commerce, said that having a weekend of back-to-back food festivals wasn't originally planned.

"I think it was really more of a [coincidence] this year. … It just fell into place that way and not by design," she said. "But when the Chamber realized both of these things were happening they thought it would be a great way to focus on the wonderful food happenings."

One is the Chocolate Festival, an annual event where up to 1,000 people are expected to ski, snowshoe or walk from business to business along the Mount Washington Valley Ski Touring and Snowshoeing Foundation trails to sample sweet treats.

"The idea is you get to eat chocolate guilt-free," Mayne said.

Chili and chocolate

Chilly Chili Cookoff
When: Saturday, Feb. 27, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Where: Gibson Center 14 Grove Street, North Conway; and new North Conway Community Center (across the street from one another)
Tickets: Wristbands $15 for adults, $7 for children 12 and under. VIP costs $30. All wristbands include chili cook-off admission, chili tasting and a chance to vote.
Visit: chilistroll.com

Mount Washington Valley Chocolate festival
When: Sunday, Feb. 28, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Where: Along the Mount Washington Valley Ski Touring and Snowshoeing Foundation Trails, Intervale
Tickets: $30 per person in advance, $35 day of (includes festival and trail pass)
Visit: mwvskitouring.org/Chocolate-Festival.html#food

The stops along the trail include Stonehurst Manor, Riverside Inn and 1785 Inn, along with some other businesses like the Local Grocer Cafe, Ragged Mountain and Bavarian Chocolate House, each of which offers the festival-goers their own chocolatey treats like chocolate fondue with cake and fruit dippers, chocolate-covered pretzels, chocolate bark, chocolate mousse, chocolate-covered bacon and hot cocoa, as well as some gluten-free options.

"Chocolate has a universal appeal," she said. "There are so many different things you can do with chocolate."

Complementing the sweetness of the chocolate festival, the Chilly Chili Cookoff returns with more than 40 professional and hobbyist chefs competing for the titles of best chili and best cornbread. Originally called the Chili Stroll, the event was designed to draw folks to the valley and North Conway Village during February vacation weeks and for a couple of years was host to an International Chili Association sanctioned event. But as the cookoff grew, the tightly regulated event turned out not to be a suitable match for the festival.

"Their rules didn't really fit, so this year that element has been removed and it's really just a way to taste a lot of chili — chili and cornbread," Mayne said.

White chilis, spicy chilis, meat chilis and vegetarian chilis will be served as samples to the guests who elect a people's choice, and the judges, who will base their decision for the winners on aroma, consistency and taste.

Each chili cook brings enough samples to feed 500 people, though Mayne said one would be hard pressed to try every chili.

"It's tough, especially because there is … cornbread too," she said.

Past cornbread offerings have been creative, like a lemon jalapeno cornbread and sweet cornbread with currants.

The final competitive aspect of the cookoff is for the displays.

"[The] displays are fabulous, they bring in little props and music and dress up in great costumes, it's really lively ...those displays have gotten more and more elaborate as the years go on," Mayne said.

FOOD

PERISHABLES

Tasty food from fresh ingredients

Brussels sprouts

Brussels sprouts get such a bad rap. Children (and even many adults) turn up their noses at the mention of their name. While I find them to be quite beautiful (mini, greener cabbages), their taste can be a little off if not cooked right. Lauren Mifsud, who writes the Hippo's From the Pantry column on alternating weeks to this column, offered a tasty recipe for Brussels sprouts in the Feb. 4 edition, but noted after trying out her recipe that she would likely try roasting to try to get more flavor, rather than the quicker method she chose of sautéing. To that, I say, "Yes!"

In my opinion, roasting is the only way to cook Brussels sprouts. As you might already know, roasting is my absolutely favorite way to cook anything in the winter. It heats the whole house and brings out flavor in even the least popular vegetable. If you roast your vegetables (mixing along the way) until they are just slightly crispy ("roast until you see toast" according to thekitchn.com) they will have that delicious caramelized flavor. It's the perfect way to prepare vegetables for picky eaters in your home.

Brussels sprouts are loaded with vitamins C and K. They hail from the same family as broccoli, cauliflower, kale and cabbage. Yet, when roasted, they can taste as good as a side of potatoes. Seriously.

According to Texas A&M's Agrilife Extension website, Brussels sprouts got their name from one of the places they are grown: Belgium. While they probably didn't originate there, they became popular in the Low Countries in the 1800s due to their long, cool growing climate. I've seen them at farmers markets around here, and last fall, the New Hampshire Agricultural Experiment Station ran tests on different varieties of Brussels sprouts to determine which kinds grow best here. It was concluded that if the plants faced some colder weather, the crop was sweeter. The study concluded Nautic, Diablo and Jade Cross E varieties grew the best over the course of two years. So when you're looking for your seeds online and at the store, look for those varieties! — *Allison Willson Dudas*

Roasted Vegetables with Chicken Sausage

2 bags Brussels sprouts, trimmed, peeled and halved
1 butternut squash, peeled and chopped
1 red onion, chopped
3-4 chicken sausages, Italian style (I use Aidells)
Extra virgin olive oil
Crazy Jane's Mixed Up Salt (or other seasoning of choice)

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Mix together everything but the chicken sausages on a large cookie sheet, coating in olive oil and seasoning. I love the Mixed Up Salt but you may prefer sage or rosemary. Roast for 25 to 30 minutes, stirring at least once. Mix in chicken sausage and roast for another 10 to 15 minutes. Serve and enjoy.

Weekly Dish

Continued from page 36

March 1, Beaver Brook Nature Center (117 Ridge Road, Hollis) kicks off a series of organic home gardening workshops with instructor Ron Christie, gardener and farmer at Living Earth Farm in Brookline. The first class, held from 7 to 9 p.m., is all about vegetable and fruit garden planning with a discussion of garden location and layout, seeds, equipment, storage and more. Future workshops will cover growing in containers, organic apples in New Hampshire, maintaining a four-season harvest and all aspects of growing berries. Cost is $10 for weeknight workshops, $20 for Saturday workshops and $125 for the entire 12-workshop series. See beaverbrook.org.

• **Dessert battle:** Wadleigh Memorial Library (49 Nashua St., Milford) invites teens to decorate their best cupcake on Friday, Feb. 26, for the teen cupcake wars from 3 to 4 p.m. Materials will be provided, but contestants are allowed to bring extra. This event is free; call 249-0645 or email refdesk@wadleighlibrary.org to sign up. See wadleighlibrary.org.

• **Farmers Dinner returns:** Riverwalk Cafe (35 Railroad Square, Nashua) will host the first Farmers Dinner of 2016 on Sunday, Feb. 28, and Monday, Feb. 29, with a pop-up taqueria showcasing a menu of authentic and creative Mexican fare. Farmers Dinner chef and founder Keith Sarasin will work alongside Riverside Barbecue pitmaster and owner Dave Manganello, bartenders Patrick Andrew of Baldwin Bar in Woburn, Mass., and Jeremy Hart of Codex to bring diners a fun meal and atmosphere. Cost is $45 for each night. See thefarmersdinner.com.

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DRINK

Beer fans, this one's for you

Spring beers near release dates

By Stefanie Phillips
food@hippopress.com

We are having a very odd winter season; at times it has felt like spring, while other days have been bitterly cold. The bad news is that spring is not quite here yet, but the good news is that many spring brews will be released soon. Beer fans, this column is for you.

The hope of spring begins when there is still snow on the ground but spring beers on the shelves. It is a promise that winter will not last forever, and even if it lingers, you can sip a spring beer from the comfort of your couch and pretend it isn't so bad outside.

Last year, I stumbled upon Time.com's "Your Ultimate Seasonal Beer Guide" infographic (time.com/beer-guide) which shows when seasonal beers hit the shelves. I am going to reference it again this year, as it is a fairly informative chart. While it only highlights beers from 11 brewers, it's a good guideline to use when determining when to buy and when one of your favorites may disappear.

Winter beers were released in the fall around October, while many spring beers are released in January. If there is something seasonal you are enjoying right now, this is the time to stock up. These include Samuel Adams Cold Snap, Harpoon Brewery Long Thaw and Blue Moon First Peach Ale. Some summer beers will actually start being released in mid-March, including Samuel Adams Summer Ale, followed by Blue Moon Summer Honey Wheat around April 1.

Cold Snap is one beer that I look forward to each year, as I like to enjoy it on draft after a day of skiing. This beer is an unfiltered white ale meant to awaken the senses with a "bright snap of spring spices." It has orange peel, plum, hibiscus and coriander, a blend of spices that is "just the right refreshing kick to signal that spring is on its way."

I have recently noticed another Blue Moon seasonal release on the shelves: Gingerbread Spiced Ale. According to the company's website, this beer has a limited winter release. The ingredients in this beer were inspired by fan requests. According to Blue Moon: "…we asked fans to suggest ingredients for a new limited release that would best fit the season. After lots of great suggestions and tastings with fans, Gingerbread Spiced Ale came out on top." It has flavors of ginger, cinnamon and molasses (reminiscent of the gingerbread house I devoured around Christmas). It sounds like

603 Brewery Waterville Wheat. Courtesy photo.

this beer won't be around too much longer, so stock up now if it is something you like, as there are no guarantees they will offer it again next winter.

Over at the Portsmouth Brewery, they currently have some different offerings on tap, including a "Sherbet" Berlinerweisse, made with vanilla and kumquat (sounds interesting and like something I would try); Barleywine traditional ale; Black Cat Stout; Citra Saison, a farmhouse-style Saison dry-hopped beer, and Double Digger IPA. They always have something fun brewing there and I always enjoy visiting.

The Smuttynose Brewing Company release schedule (available on their website) shows they released Rhye IPA in mid-February and are set to release Hayseed in March. Rhye IPA is a "hoppy IPA, with rye spiciness and big hop character," according to Smuttynose. This 7-percent ABV beer is great for cold winter days. That will be followed up by Hayseed, a new summer seasonal offering known as a grisette. It is light-bodied yet flavorful and only packs 3.8 percent ABV.

This beer isn't seasonal, but whether or not you enjoy skiing, 603 Brewery Waterville Wheat is one of my picks as it is brewed in the style of beer I enjoy. This unfiltered wheat beer has orange and coriander (translation: Blue Moon fans will probably like it). Try it at the brewery's Londonderry location among their other offerings, or find it in cans.

For something that also screams "New Hampshire!" try Woodstock Brewery Live Free or Die, which is amber in color with a hint of caramel sweetness.

This is just a small selection of all the great beer we have access to here in the Granite State. Buckle down for the remainder of winter, grab a cold brew and know that spring is on its way.

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Includes listings for lectures, author events, book clubs, writers' workshops and other literary events. To let us know about your book or event, e-mail Kelly Sennott at ksennott@hippopress.com. To get author events, library events and more listed, send information to listings@hippopress.com.

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Hey Marseilles, *Hey Marseilles* (Shanachie Records)

Skittish about making the same mistakes they made during the grunge era, Seattle's scene-makers are forcing new bands to prove themselves by taking on relentless tour schedules, which is where this chamber-pop/hayloft six-piece has been all my life, or at least hidden from plain sight save for a couple of records and one kudo from NPR over the last eight years. This stuff is for real, which doesn't automatically stem from the bizarre mix of instruments the guys play, i.e. cello, viola, accordion and mandolin along with the usual guitars and such. Opening tune "Eyes on You" had me thinking of Neil Young fronting 3/4 of the E Street Band for a second there, but eventually it settled in that this was a rather unique blend of Elbow's open-heartedness, Florence Welch-level gravitas and Arcade Fire's technical ambition, something too good for sports-bar overheads but that wouldn't seem completely out of place. A ton of passion from this crew. **A** — *Eric W. Saeger*

Kanye West, *The Life of Pablo* (Def Jam Records)

There remains no superego with enough tensile strength to put a lid on this TMI dispenser, his fame growing with every tweet, many of which would condemn anyone else to embarrassed B-list status in half a heartbeat. At this writing, his latest Twitterburst involved cajoling Mark Zuckerberg for a billion dollars, to be wisely spent on the lab-synthesis of Kanye's intellectual brand or somesuch, anything to get him out of the $53-million-and-counting he owes to the factory that makes his Yeezy rags. But you know all this, of course, and, if you're one of the few who signed up for that (doomed, and totally to-be-patched-later) Tidal version, you've already got an opinion, or maybe you just wrote him off as a low-rent PT Barnum after Taylor Swift refused to release his single "Famous" on her Twitter account. Either way, as you can see, there are, as usual, lots of stunts afoot, but this time not as many "groundbreaking" acts of hip-hop. It's an album-album; unlike its predecessor *Yeezus*, which was a 1990s-industrial pitched fit lorded over by Rick Rubin. Here, however, you have guests like Chris Brown, Chance the Rapper and Kendrick Lamar in not-completely-out-of-the-question situations, nods to everything from house to cigar-box-percussion sidewalk jive, and of course, lots of gospel. Oh, and plenty of near-accidental eclecticism — St. Paul of Tarsus, not Picasso, is the titular Pablo in question. What a scamp, huh? **A-** — *Eric W. Saeger*

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• Toronto heavy metal blockheads **Anvil** are famous for being obscure, after that documentary showed them opening for puppet shows — or was that Spinal Tap? I forget. Either way, those guys are good sports and have a sense of humor, which is half the battle in life. *Anvil is Anvil* is the title of their 16th LP, and we should be able to make quick work of this; let's go point 'n' laugh. Hmf, figures, no new stuff, but their last album sounded just like Spinal Tap, pinched high notes, lumbering guitar doom, the whole smash. These guys have their fingers on the pulse of the rock 'n' roll world, you have to admit.

• Jangle-blues-cowgirl **Bonnie Raitt** is cool. I saw her at that outdoor amphitheater in Boston, whatever they call it nowadays. Her last album, *Slipstream*, won the Best Americana album Grammy in 2013, but it was basically all covers, but at least she wasn't an alcoholic anymore — does anyone care that singer-songwriters don't write songs anymore, or am I just being ridiculous? The lead-off single from *Dig in Deep*, her 17th album, is "Gypsy in Me," a typical example of her style, i.e. weary-sounding vocals, dishwasher-safe skronk-mud, slide guitar, bar-blues — the usual.

• Arcade Fire's bald lady violinist, **Sarah Neufeld**, is releasing a new album called *The Ridge*. I've heard some of her earlier stuff and found it a bit lacking, too quirky and weird, but at least this reaction wasn't completely unexpected; her soundscapes are basically an add-on after-party product in which to indulge once the rest of Arcade Fire (but not all, the drummer and a few other bit players help Neufeld out a lot here) go backstage to sip wine and chuckle about American politics or whatever they do. The title track for this album doesn't get on my nerves as much as her earlier stuff; it sort of makes a sonic, fiddle-driven vortex for five minutes and then she starts her faraway wombat-shoegaze vocal shtick. Don't laugh, those words will actually cause some people to salivate uncontrollably.

• Boston-based **Quilt** is an improv-indie quartet focused mainly on the dream-pop/psychedelic space, or so they think; I'll be the judge of that. Their newest album is *Vortex*, featuring the single "Eliot St.," which, as it turns out, sounds more like a cross between Sufjan Stevens and Bon Iver, if you want to get fussy about it, and why wouldn't you? — *Eric W. Saeger*

Behind the Colebrook shootings

Richard Adams Carey on writing *In the Evil Day*

By Kelly Sennott
ksennot@hippopress.com

Richard Adams Carey was driving home from his day job, listening to the radio when he first heard about the 1997 Colebrook shootings.

It was Aug. 19, and Columbia resident Carl Drega had opened fire with an AR-15 assault rifle, first at a couple of troopers, then at a selectman and newspaper editor. He wounded three other law enforcement officers before being shot to death in a fight with police in the Vermont woods, where he'd fled after the initial incident.

"Like everybody else in New Hampshire, I was basically astonished," said Carey, who lives in Sandwich and teaches writing at Southern New Hampshire University. "It was in this peaceful, bucolic landscape where it seemed implausible that something like this could happen."

Carey is best known for his nonfiction writing, especially *Against the Tide: The Fate of the New England Fisherman*. In 2000, when he was "beating bushes" for the next idea, he came back to this incident. At that point, the Columbine shootings had happened too.

"I began to see this was a pattern that was going to develop," Carey said. "Now murderers were using weapons where it was possible to kill a whole lot of people at once in a public place. I anticipated many more Colebrooks and Columbines."

But there was also something different about the Colebrook incident. It had plot, rising tension and a kind of perverse logic.

"There was a long, simmering build-up, and a cast of dynamic and charismatic characters. And the story itself, even as you read it in the newspapers, it had a kind of novelistic arc," Carey said.

His first move was to write to the immediate families of the four murder victims. He admits now he didn't think enough into it.

"If my spouse had been murdered, and some writer I didn't know came out of the blue and wanted to do a book about that, I would probably react very negatively. Three of the four families did gently but firmly tell me to go away," Carey said.

The exception: Earl and Irene Bunnell, parents of Vickie Bunnell, the 45-year-old lawyer and part-time judge whose murder garnered the most attention.

"Earl was a voracious reader, someone who loved books, and loved the good that books can do in their best form. He had always been a little bit bothered that among the victims, Vickie had always been placed center stage," Carey said.

It wasn't an outright yes, but the couple was at least willing to talk with Carey and get to know him before making a decision. In 2003, they gave their consent. Their one stipulation: that Carey would give equal weight to all the victims.

"They had a whole lot of social capital in Colebrook because of how bravely and how selflessly they had responded to this incident, and when they gave their OK … there were a whole lot of people who certainly would not have spoken previously who said, 'Sure, let's talk,'" Carey said.

Researching and writing *In the Evil Day: Violence Comes to One Small Town*, which was released this fall, took years. Carey read about 3,000 pages of police reports and conducted something like 300 interviews, none of which were easy. Even after all that time, grief and anger ran close to the surface. People often broke down in tears. But it was helpful Carey was not a North Country insider; people could speak more frankly with him, and he promised to do something not all journalists do — he sent drafts to his interviewees, so they could fact-check and make certain they were comfortable with their information going public.

"I wanted to protect them," Carey said. "But what really surprised me. … I was hardly ever asked to edit something out."

Carey had been afraid of what he might find — mostly, instances of cowardice or self-preservation.

"What do we do when, suddenly, we find ourselves in the midst of an ordinary day, and also in the midst of a killing zone, where colleagues are being gunned down before our eyes? How do we react?" Carey said.

But what he found was grace and courage. Also notorious was The News and Sentinel, Colebrook's weekly where the killings occurred. Editor Dennis Joos had died unarmed, trying to wrestle the rifle from Drega, and when publisher John Harrigan arrived at the office after an out-of-town visit, he decided not to take the day off but to go to press — despite that there were still bodies in the vicinity, including his former girlfriend's. Their work was shortlisted for the Pulitzer Prize.

Carey said he hopes the book showcases the community as one of immense human spirit, warmth and great civic and social vitality.

"I wanted to provide a portrait of the North Country that outshone the shadow cast by this incident," Carey said.

Meet Richard Adams Carey

Where: Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua
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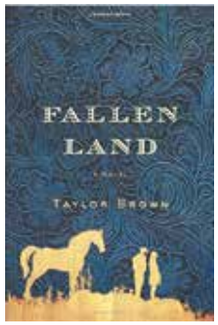


Fallen Land, by Taylor Brown (St. Martin's Press, 276 pages)

Margaret Mitchell demanded more than 1,000 pages to give us Scarlett and Rhett, theretofore the most memorable fictional characters of the Civil War. In a third fewer words, and with disturbingly precise historical detail, debut novelist Taylor Brown gives readers reason to ask "Scarlett who?"

In *Fallen Land*, Brown offers another couple backlit by the flames that licked Atlanta in 1864, but his Callum and Ava inhabit a far different world than the one destroyed in Mitchell's *Gone With The Wind*. Both of them teenage orphans, they are thrown together through tragedy: he, a family-less immigrant and ragtag hanger-on of a renegade militia; she, a rape victim hardened by solitary living after her father and brother didn't return from the war.

Callum and Ava first meet when his small, brutal band of renegade Confederates invades her Virginia house, looking for food. They were no longer soldiers but part of the savage underbelly of the Civil War, the murderous, ramshackle militias that broke off from organized fighting to pursue their own hellish objectives.

"They had long ago forsaken the war of newspapers for the one they carried everywhere with them, and which had no colors, no sides and which could be fit neatly to any new opportunity that presented itself: ambush, pillage, torture," Brown writes.

When a thug in his company threatens Ava, Callum intervenes and winds up killing the man. He is seriously injured and loses consciousness. When he later recovers, he steals a horse from the group's leader, a remorseless sadist known as the Colonel, and gallops back to Ava's house to check on her. There, he finds the girl pregnant, having been raped despite Callum's efforts.

After the Colonel, having pursued Callum and his prized horse, turns up and is murdered in the yard, the teenagers set off on a treacherous ride south, desperate to escape both the oncoming winter and the more sinister threat, a conscienceless group of bounty hunters who think Callum killed the Colonel and want to collect the reward offered for him.

The plot was loosely derived from the old ballad "When First Unto This Country" — performed by, among others, the Grateful Dead — which tells of an immigrant who falls for a "fair maid" and steals a fine horse from Colonel Charles Grey. (Brown dedicates the book to the musicians of Ireland and Appalachia who keep such songs alive.)

But the ballad is not so much represented in the novel as is the scholarly work, including several histories of the Civil War and Sherman's march, that Brown consulted while he was imagining, then writing, the book.

As such, many scenes owe their provenance not just to Brown's imagination but to actual wartime atrocities. Numerous passages benefit from a strong stomach, such as when a guerilla troop disembowels a prisoner, or when the Colonel encourages the cooperation of resisting civilians by cutting off their fingers.

The ugliness of war, however, is made bearable by Brown's exquisite use of language. His descriptions are the stuff of poetry: the color of fall leaves, "explosive, lifting, like a hemorrhage from the earth." Here, he describes a home Ava and Callum encounter:

"… a one-room cabin rose errantly against the sky, its walls struck wayward as if by violent wind, its foundation a four-cornered piling of incongruent stones gathered seemingly without regard to size or shape or any architectural soundness. The porch floundered. The tin roof was red-rusted. The whole structure whimsy-walled as if something thrown up by some slothful forebear in a single day of work, drunk."

On its harsh journey, *Fallen Land* meanders this lyrical path, even as Ava and Callum bear witness to devastation of the war: the railroads and bridges destroyed, the homes and farms plundered (in one memorable scene, a family's grand piano dragged into the street); animals starved, maimed or burned.

At one point, looking at a scorched forest and a destroyed railroad track, Callum remarks, "Nobody's like to forget this. Not soon, I reckon."

To which Ava responds, "I don't know. You'd be surprised what people'll forget."

As the couple navigates the precarious slopes and raging rivers of Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia, their provisions dwindle, causing them to seek the kindness of strangers, often with disastrous consequences for both the helpers and the helpees. They are also forced to make ethically challenging decisions, such as whether to destroy a ferry that is the livelihood of a boy but would also enable their pursuers to reach them more efficiently, and even whether to kill others so as to improve their own chance at living.

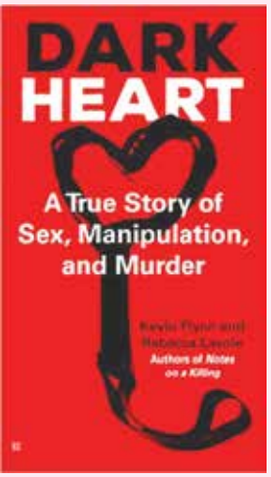
The pair are alone but for two companions that lend complexity and poignancy to the story. The first is the horse, the magnificent beast Callum stole, whose stoic toil carried them hundreds of miles, causing Callum to reflect that just as there are great men, there are great animals.

The other is a fetus in a jar, which cannot be explained without spoiling a small but intriguing part of the tale.

It is but one of *Fallen Land*'s gentle surprises, the greatest of which is how a first novel about hard and horrible things can be such a pleasure to read. **A**

— *Jennifer Graham*

Book Report



• **True tragedy:** Husband-and-wife team Kevin Flynn and Rebecca Lavoie have combined efforts to produce another true crime book, this time following the death of UNH student Lizzi Marriott. *Dark Heart: A True Story of Sex, Manipulation and Murder* is about games couples play, and what happens when role-playing becomes a deadly reality. They talk about the book at Gibson's Bookstore, 45 S. Main St., Concord, on Thursday, March 3, at 5:30 p.m. Visit gibsonsbookstore.com. Call 224-0562.

• **Poetry power:** New Hampshire Poet Laureate Alice Fogel visits MainStreet BookEnds, 16 E. Main St., Warner, on Friday, Feb. 26, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., for a presentation, "The Power of Poetry in Our Lives." She's the author of *Strange Terrain*, a text to help the "average joe" relate to and learn poetry without actually "getting it," in addition to several poetry collections, including her most recent, *Interval: Poems Based on Bach's "Goldberg Variations."* She lives in Walpole. Visit mainstreetbookends.com or call 456-2700.

• **Poetry Out Loud semifinals begin:** After months of preparation and in-school contests, New Hampshire high school champions are participating in four semifinal competitions for the opportunity to perform at the 2016 New Hampshire Poetry Out Loud Championships scheduled at the Statehouse in Concord on Monday, March 21, at 6 p.m., where Virginia Prescott of NHPR will serve as master of ceremonies. Semi-final events occur at the New Hampshire Institute of Art on Monday, Feb. 29, at 6 p.m., emceed by Andy's Summer Playhouse's Jared Mezzocchi; Jean's Playhouse on Thursday, March 3, at 6 p.m., emceed by NHPR's Brady Carlson; Southern New Hampshire University's Walker Auditorium on Monday, March 7, at 6 p.m., emceed by John Herman of the New Hampshire Writers' Project; and New England College's Simon Center on Wednesday, March 9, at 6 p.m., emceed by local storyteller Becky Rule. Visit nh.gov/nharts for directions, snow-dates and parking information. — *Kelly Sennott*

Books

Author Events

• **VALERIA LUISELLI** Author talks about hwr novel *Story of My Teeth*. Thurs., Feb. 25, 7 p.m. NH Institute of Art, 148 Concord St., Manchester. Visit nhia.edu.

• **DIANE LES BECQUETS** Author talks about *Breaking Wild*. Thurs., Feb. 25, at 6:30 p.m. Toadstool Bookshop, 614 Nashua St., Milford. Call 673-1734. She also has another event Sat., Feb. 27, at 4 p.m. Gibson's Bookstore, 45 S. Main St., Concord. Visit gibsonsbookstore.com.

• **MARTHA MCMANAMY** Author talks about *The Big Trip*. Thurs., Feb. 25, at 6:30 p.m. RiverRun Bookstore, 142 Fleet St., Portsmouth. Call 431-2100. Email info@riverrunbookstore.com.

• **ALICE B. FOGEL** NH Poet Laureate presents "The Power of Poetry in Our Lives." Fri., Feb. 26, at 4 p.m. MainStreet BookEnds, 16 E. Main St., Warner.

• **BRADY CARLSON** Author talks about *Dead Presidents: An American Adventure into the Strange Deaths and Surprising Afterlives of Our Nation's Leaders* Sat., Feb. 27, at 2 p.m. Toadstool Bookshop, 614 Nashua St., Milford. Visit bradycarlson.com.

• **KEVIN FLYNN, REBECCA LAVOIE** talk about their new book, *Dark Heart: A True Story of Sex, Manipulation, and Murder* at Gibson's Bookstore, 45 S. Main St., Concord, Thurs., March 3, at 5:30 p.m.

• **PAUL DURHAM** talks about new *Luck Uglies* book Fri., March 4, at 5 p.m., at Water Street Bookstore, 125 Water St., Durham, waterstreetbooks.com.

• **MORGAN CALLAN ROGERS** Author talks about *Written on My Heart*. Sat., March 5, at 4 p.m. Gibson's Bookstore, 45 S. Main St., Concord. Call 224-0562, visit gibsonsbookstore.com.

• **MARY ANN ESPOSITO** Host of the PBS series Ciao Italia will sign copies of her latest book *Ciao Italia Family Classics* as well as Ciao Italia aprons. Both can be purchased onsite. Sat., March 5, from 10 to 11 a.m. Cole Gardens, 430 Loudon Road, Concord. Call 229-0655.

• **NOY HOLLAND** Author talks about *Bird*. Thurs., March 10, at 6:30 p.m. RiverRun Bookstore, 142 Fleet St., Portsmouth. Call 431-2100. Email info@riverrunbookstore.com.

• **CHARLES DUHIGG** Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter talks about new book, *Smarter Faster Better: The Secrets of Being Productive in Life and Business*. Thurs., March 10, at 7 p.m. The Music Hall Loft, 131 Congress St., Portsmouth. $42. Includes copy of book, bar beverage, book singing meet-and-greet. Call 436-2400. Visit themusichall.org.

• **ASHLEY DAVIS BUSH** Author talks about book, *Hope & Healing for Transcending Loss: Daily Meditations for Those Who are Grieving*. Sat., March 12, at 4 p.m. Gibson's Bookstore, 45 S. Main St., Concord. Visit gibsonsbookstore.com.

• **COLIN WOODARD** Author talks about *American Character*. Tues., March 15, at 6:30 p.m. RiverRun Bookstore, 142 Fleet St., Portsmouth. Call 431-2100. Email info@riverrunbookstore.com.

• **STEVE GORDON** Author talks about *Let's Talk About Death: Asking the Questions That Profoundly Change the Way We Live and Die*. Thurs., March 17, at 5:30 p.m. Gibson's Bookstore, 45 S. Main St., Concord. Visit gibsonsbookstore.com.

Hipposcout

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On Monday, February 15th, our good friends at Mint Bistro suffered severe damage due to a water pipe that burst above the restaurant. During this temporary closure of three to four weeks, the dedicated employees of Mint Bistro are without income until the insurance claim can be settled. Even when the insurance claim is settled, claims for wages in the service industry are usually paid at a partial amount.

This weekend, Friday, February 26th - Monday, February 29th, Cotton restaurant will be donating proceeds from their nightly additions to their dinner menu. We have some fun things planned.

Cotton will also be hosting a benefit raffle. Tickets will be available at Cotton through Sunday, March 6th. With the support of 11 locally owned and operated restaurants, two lucky winners will receive one $50 gift certificate from each of the following restaurants: The Hanover Street Chophouse, Fratello's Italian Grille, KC's Rib Shack, The Copper Door, Michael Buckley Restaurant Group, Canoe, The Foundry, Republic, Campo Enoteca, Veranda Martini Bar and Grille and COTTON.

If you're unable to join us this weekend and would like to offer support to your favorite Mint Bistro servers, bartenders, kitchen staff, and hosts to help gap this temporary period of uncertainty please visit GoFundMe at *www.gofundme.com/qgqc2uak*. Your support is truly appreciated.

Mint Bistro tentatively plans to re-open on March 7th. They will post updates on their Facebook page.

Thank you for your support.

Jeffery Paige
Chef/Author/Owner

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The Oscar goes to *Creed*

And other things you won't be hearing at the Oscars on Sunday

By Amy Diaz
adiaz@hippopress.com

Actually, you will likely hear "*Creed*" and "the Oscar goes to" together in the context of Sylvester Stallone at the Academy Awards this Sunday, Feb. 28, on ABC.

Even though Rocky was a supporting character in this latest Rocky movie and Stallone neither wrote nor directed the reboot of his underdog-cheering franchise, he's likely to be the guy walking away with the statue for the movie. He is one of this year's "it's his time" nominees and, disappointingly, he is the only person/part of the movie nominated.

This year's Oscars have been most commented on for who and what isn't nominated — and I agree, it is way easier to grump about what isn't here than to be delighted at what is. This was a solid B year for prestige dramas with more to really cheer for in the mainstream comedy/action/sci-fi categories that seldom receive any Oscar respect.

But you go to the Oscars with the movies that were nominated, not the fantasy collection of comedies, small movies and action fare that would get mixed in with the serious movies if this were called the Amy Academy Awards. So, with some grousing about the folks that should be on this list and a lot of guessing (with help from Internet prediction sites, including GoldDerby.com and EW.com), here are my predictions, likely to be about 60 percent accurate if previous years' trends hold, as to who will win as well as my picks for who should win. See how right — or wrong — I am on Sunday, Feb. 28, at 8:30 p.m. (red carpet coverage starts at 7 p.m.) when ABC broadcasts the 88th Annual Academy Awards.

• Best picture

Nominees: *The Big Short, Bridge of Spies, Brooklyn, Mad Max: Fury Road, The Martian, The Revenant, Room, Spotlight.*

Who should win: *Spotlight.* I'm totally biased when it comes to this movie — it is so spot-on about working at newspapers in 2001 that I started to worry I was missing a deadline. But it is also a really solid movie telling a well-constructed, well-paced story filled with people turning in really great performances. It is the least showy of the movies in this category that I've seen (I haven't seen *Brooklyn* or *Room*) but it is also the most finely crafted. This movie's chances seemed better closer to Christmas, but Gold Derby still has it listed in third place.

Who will win: *The Revenant.* The more I think about this movie and its indulgent two-hour-and-36-minute length, the less I like it. But it features some very lovely cinematography and it has scooped up enough of the season's awards (including the Golden Globe for best drama) that its late-in-the-year high seems likely to continue.

Dark horse: *The Big Short.* I feel like this movie seems to be gaining favor in the past month or so (it has the No. 2 spot in Gold Derby's list) and EW picked the movie to win. If something that isn't *Spotlight* is going to win, I'm OK with it being *The Big Short*, a movie that conveys complicated financial information as well as very pointed anger with humor and energy.

Shoulda been a contender: *Star Wars: The Force Awakens, Creed* and *Spy. Creed* and *Star Wars*: *The Force Awakens* are two different but strong examples of expanding storytelling beyond a well-known franchise and bringing not just new life but new depth. *Spy* was simply a hilarious movie. Why even allow for 10 movies if a few of them can't have different tones and be from different genres? While I generally applaud the inclusion of *Fury Road* in this list, one non-prestige-drama occasionally is not enough. (Which, of course, could be said about all different kinds of much-needed diversity in award season.)

• Best director

Nominees: Adam McKay for *The Big Short*; George Miller for *Mad Max: Fury Road*; Alejandro Gonzalez Iñarritu for *The Revenant*; Lenny Abrahamson for *Room*; Tom McCarthy for *Spotlight*.

Who should win: Adam McKay. *The Big Short* pulls together a lot of different kinds of elements — broad humor, such as in the celebrity cameos; dark humor; genuine anger — and makes them work together in a movie that has a bazillion actors, many of whom never interact. McKay keeps the movie going, makes it feel like one complete work and adds life to a subject that could have been bleak or boring.

Who will win: Alejandro Gonzalez Iñarritu. Occasionally (2013 with Ang Lee winning for *Life of Pi* but *Argo* taking the big prize; 2014 with Alfonso Cuaron winning for *Gravity* but *12 Years a Slave* taking best picture) the directing award goes to a different movie than the best picture award but it still seems most likely that if *The Revenant* wins, Iñarritu wins.

Dark horse: George Miller. If voters just can't bring themselves to vote for *Fury Road* as best picture but still want to give it a big prize, this might be the spot.

Shoulda been a contender: Ryan Coogler for *Creed.* It was a good movie, it was a fun movie, it was a Rocky movie but also not *just* a Rocky movie and it was at least as good at *Fury Road,* I'd argue better than *The Revenant*. Also, just because Steven Spielberg engaged in old-fashioned movie-making with *Bridge of Spies* doesn't mean it wasn't really good old-fashioned movie-making.

• Best cinematography

Nominees: *Carol*, *The Hateful Eight*, *Mad Max: Fury Road*, *The Revenant, Sicario.*

Who should win: *Mad Max: Fury Road.* I felt this movie was rather thin — drive the truck this way, turn around and go that way — but it was beautiful to look at.

Who will win: *The Revenant.* This movie is, like, 95 percent its cinematography. This is the most justified of its big awards.

Dark horse: *The Hateful Eight.* Another slow trek through someone's over-indulged vision, Quentin Tarantino's latest is nonetheless very pretty.

Shoulda been a contender: *The Martian*. Because it made Mars look exciting, bleak and real.

• Best actress

Nominees: Cate Blanchett for *Carol*, Brie Larson for *Room*, Jennifer Lawrence for *Joy*, Charlotte Rampling for *45 Years*, Saoirse Ronan for *Brooklyn*.

Who should win: Jennifer Lawrence. I only saw two of the movies in this category — *Joy* and *Carol* — and of those I give it to Lawrence. Her beleaguered mom feels far more natural than Blanchett's umpteenth Lady Movie Star Circa 1950-something performance.

Who will win: Brie Larson. The Internet has this as an absolute lock. While I haven't seen the movie yet, it does sound like the performance that required the most heavy lifting.

Dark horse: Cate Blanchett. Movie people like movie stars.

Shoulda been a contender: Emily Blunt for *Sicario*. Granted, I haven't seen three of these performances, but Blunt in *Sicario* is definitely better than Blanchett in *Carol*, so how is she not here? And I know actual funny comedies are beneath Academy notice so I won't even say anything about Melissa McCarthy.

• Best actor

Nominees: Bryan Cranston for *Trumbo*, Matt Damon for *The Martian*, Leonardo DiCaprio for *The Revenant*, Michael Fassbender for *Steve Jobs*; Eddie Redmayne for *The Danish Girl.*

Who should win: Matt Damon. Of the three movies I saw (*The Martian*, *The Revenant* and *Steve Jobs*) I don't know that any lead performance blew me away, but I'd give it to Damon on the basis that so much of that movie was on his shoulders and his character was an enjoyable person with whom to spend so much time.

Who will win: Leonardo DiCaprio. For whatever reason, the universe has decided this is Leo's year.

Dark horse: Eddie Redmayne. To pick someone at random.

Shoulda been a contender: Michael B. Jordan for *Creed*. Seriously, Oscar, why no Jordan? His performance helped to turn what could have been a franchise-extending cash grab into a story that wins on its own merits.

• Best supporting actress

Nominees: Jennifer Jason Leigh in *The Hateful Eight*; Rooney Mara in *Carol*; Rachel McAdams in *Spotlight*; Alicia Vikander in *The Danish Girl*; Kate Winslet in *Steve Jobs*.

Who should win: Rachel McAdams.

Who will win: Alicia Vikander. She was everywhere last year. Internet predictions seem to agree that she has momentum.

Dark horse: Kate Winslet. You know how, like, Meryl Streep is pretty much nominated any time it's even remotely justified? I kind of feel like that's the direction Winslet is going.

Shoulda been a contender: Tessa Thompson for *Creed*. She elevates her character beyond "girlfriend." I would also accept any woman in *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 2* and Cate Blanchett in *Cinderella*.

• Best supporting actor

Nominees: Christian Bale in *The Big Short*; Tom Hardy in *The Revenant*; Mark Ruffalo in *Spotlight*; Mark Rylance in *Bridge of Spies*; Sylvester Stallone in *Creed.*

Who should win: Stallone. Whatever you might think of the objective quality of Rocky movies or Stallone's performances in general it is impossible not to be charmed by him in *Creed*. Only Mark Rylance truly deserves the award more in this category and I'll bet even he would give it to Stallone.

Who will win: da, da dadada da da, dum dum; da, da dadada da da dum dum, da dada-

da da da da da, DUMMMM DUMMMM ... duh na NAAA, duh na NAAAA...

Dark horse: Mark Rylance. Because he is a million kinds of awesome including in this way: His acceptance speeches are often just recitations of poems.

Shoulda been a contender: Benicio Del Toro in *Sicario.* Michael Peña in *Ant-Man.* Their films are polar opposites but both performances add something necessary. It would also be perfectly acceptable to throw a dart at a set of cast photos of the men in *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 2, Spotlight* and *The Big Short* and it's likely that whomever you landed on would be a decent candidate.

• Best screenplay, original

Nominees: *Bridge of Spies*, *Ex Machina*, *Inside Out*, *Spotlight*, *Straight Outta Compton*.

Who should win: *Inside Out.* This movie gets so much right — about childhood (both as a kid and as a parent seeing it again) and change and the way we deal with emotions and is so full of fabulous Pixar details.

Who will win: *Spotlight.* And if that happens it almost definitely won't win best picture but maybe this will be the category for it to get a little Oscar love.

Dark horse: *Straight Outta Compton.* Here's a bracing bit of information: *Straight Outta Compton* opens in 1986, 30 years ago. This movie is about the music of the childhood/teen years/young adulthood of not just Gen-Xers but older millennials. That's right, *Straight Outta Compton* has nostalgia on its side. Feel old yet?

Shoulda been a contender: *Spy.* Could we give comedy a little love here?

• Best screenplay, adapted

Nominees: *The Big Short*, *Brooklyn*, *Carol*, *The Martian*, *Room*.

Who should win: *The Martian.* Of the three I saw, I'd give the nod to this space adventure in large part because of how fun and cool and exciting it made math and science, even when it consisted of just people in a room talking.

Who will win: *The Big Short.* Same principle as *Spotlight* — this might be a bit of a consolation prize if *The Revenant* is indeed going to walk away with the big award.

Dark horse: *Room.* On Gold Derby, the No. 2 slot seems to go to *Room* a fair amount, which suggests that this is another movie that could get this in lieu of best picture.

Shoulda been a contender: I assume this is where *Creed* and *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* would go.

• Best animated movie

Nominees: *Anomalisa*, *Boy and the World*, *Inside out*, *Shaun the Sheep Movie*, *When Marnie Was There*.

Who should win: *Inside Out.* Yes, I cried. Shut up, so did you. And, yes, this is the only one of the animated movies I saw but I think we can agree it's the only one you really need to see (though my general love of Aardman Animations will probably lead me to check out *Shaun the Sheep Movie* eventually).

Who will win: *Inside Out.* Pixar isn't always a sure thing (its other movie this year, *The Good Dinosaur*, proves that) but when it lands a punch it's a knock-out.

Dark horse: *Anomalisa.* This stop-motion animated movie from Charlie Kaufman is doing a thing — which is unlikely to push it in front of *Inside Out* but...

Shoulda been a contender: *The Peanuts Movie*. This movie shocked me with how gentle and charming and true to the spirit of Charlie Brown and the gang it was.

Race (PG-13)

Jesse Owens heads to the 1936 Olympics in *Race*, a Jesse Owens biopic that is about all sorts of stuff and also, incidentally, Jesse Owens.

Jesse Owens (Stephan James) is a superfast runner but he's also a man with a daughter and fiancée, Ruth (Shanice Banton), to support as well as parents whom he helps out financially. And then there's the matter of the upcoming 1936 Olympics, which he dearly hopes to participate in. When he heads to Ohio State University, he has no time for parties and hook-ups. His coach, Larry Snyder (Jason Sudeikis), harangues him to do nothing but train for upcoming track and field events. But Owens also has to get a part-time job, which, with classes and training leaves him little time for frivolous things like sleep.

Meanwhile, in New York, the American Olympic committee is trying to decide whether it will indeed go to the 1936 Olympics, which are in Berlin. U.S. Olympic official Avery Brundage (Jeremy Irons) is tasked with going to Germany to basically tell the Nazis to behave, publicly at least, and not to get hinky about the ethnicity of participating athletes, so that the U.S. can justify its presence there. Back home, Jeremiah Mahoney (William Hurt) serves as the leading voice of those who want to boycott games they think will legitimize and serve as propaganda for the Nazis. During his trip to Germany, Avery Brundage meets with Joseph Goebbels (Barnaby Metschurat) and Leni Riefenstahl (Carice Van Houten, for whom the night is dark and full of terrors), who is making a movie about the Olympics.

So, here's some stuff this movie is about:

• Larry Snyder and his need to coach some winning athletes after a few years of slump.

• Larry Snyder and the Olympics he almost but didn't quite make it to in 1924.

• Larry Snyder and his crumbling personal life.

• Avery Brundage and his moral flexibility when it comes to the Nazis.

• The nascent American objections to the Nazis and their anti-Semitic and generally racist policies and doctrines.

50 ▶

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◀ 49 • The role of sport in politics.

• The power struggle between Joseph Goebbels and Leni Riefenstahl.

• The 1936 Olympics and the good (Owens' many wins) and bad (the U.S. sidelines its two Jewish athletes) things that happen there.

• The disquieting things Larry Snyder sees when he turns down the wrong street in Berlin.

• The racist meathead behavior of Ohio State University's football team.

And, then also, we get the Jesse Owens part of this Jesse Owens movie wherein he deals with some racism and has some romantic woes and has an assortment of difficulties on his road to the Olympics.

That is a lot of subjects for a movie to be about. And an unnecessary number of those things are not about Jesse Owens. Or, if you want to take the position that this movie isn't really an Owens biopic and is about the 1936 Olympics, a lot of those things aren't about the Olympics. Also, for a movie this awkwardly padded, I don't understand while the final runtime tops two hours. And, finally, if the movie-makers' real desire was to put out a film called *Avery Brundage Is a Massive Jerk* they probably should have just made that movie.

Race does have a nice confluence of things to work with — namely, the political environment of the 1936 Olympics, racial politics in 1930s America and the ambitions and talents of Jesse Owens, a masterful athlete. But it piles on so much additional stuff that whatever emotional impact those core story points could have had gets lost in the sea of, for example, whatever problem Goebbels has with Riefenstahl or the implication that Brundage basically took a bribe from the Nazis. Or the personal problems of the, to put it bluntly, white coach who works with Owens. Sudeikis generally makes Snyder a likable character. But why do we need to get all tangled up in his life in this story about Owens? This movie very much reminded me of *42*, the Jackie Robinson movie that spent a lot of time telling the stories of people not Jackie Robinson. It appears that Owens had an interesting and eventful life both before and after the Olympics. Why drag that down with a bunch of storytelling junk?

As with *42*, *Race* does have interesting moments. At one point, Owens and Dave Albritton (Eli Goree), another African-American track athlete, arrive at the Berlin Olympics and look for the "colored dorms." Told that there aren't segregated dorms and all the athletes are staying in one place, the men are rather shocked. It's a nice scene that gets to the weirdness of the moment: that they are in a maniacally racist country but are being treated with an equality they wouldn't get at home. The experience of this Olympics for Owens, with all its contradictions, is way more interesting and would make for a far sleeker bit of storytelling than the hash of, like, every piece of information the movie could find about 1936 Berlin. Stephan James is a perfectly appealing Owens but he is so frequently cut off by the movie that we have a hard time really getting to know the character he's creating. **C**

Race

Rated PG-13 for thematic elements and language. Directed by Stephen Hopkins with a screenplay by Joe Shrapnel and Anna Waterhouse, Race *is two hours and 14 minutes long and distributed by Focus Features..*

Risen (PG-13)

A Roman gets himself and his faith all mixed up in the immediately-post-crucifixion days of Jesus and his followers in *Risen*, a plucky little sword-and-sandals movie.

Clavius (Joseph Fiennes) is just a Roman Tribune, trying to move his way up the ranks so he can get himself out of dusty Judea and find position and money and maybe a nice country house somewhere outside Rome. Thus seems to be the desire of Pontius Pilate (Peter Firth) too, though first both men will have to get past the current headache: the execution of another troublemaker being called a messiah. Though this guy, "the Nazarene," as Pilate calls him, seems to be not like the others. For one thing, he didn't fight execution even though it was by the particularly gruesome method of crucifixion, Pilate says. And Pilate, whose central concern is tamping down any unrest ahead of an upcoming visit by Caesar, wasn't even all that invested in the execution; that was more the desire of Caiaphas (Stephen Greif) and his group over at the temple.

Pilate: just another beleaguered regional manager getting grief from his direct reports *and* his bosses.

Because the Nazarene situation has an extra touch of oddness about it, Pilate sends Clavius to make sure that the man is in fact dead (crucifixion victims can last for days, we're told). When he gets there, he's surprised to find that the man called Yeshua (Cliff Curtis) by his followers has died quickly. The Roman centurion guarding the site and his minions are getting weirded out by the whole scene. There was an earthquake around the time of the man's death and now the sky is getting unnaturally dark. Clavius and Lucius (Tom Felton), the young political appointee protegee Clavius gets stuck with, tell the Romans to finish off the other two crucifixion victims, give the body of the Nazarene to his followers and then everybody can knock off early. But Caiaphas comes to Pilate with another problem: The Nazarene's followers are claiming he will rise from the dead. If something happens to the body — say, it vanishes from its tomb — it will give their claim credibility and add to the man's legend. Clavius is ordered to seal the tomb and leaves two *Life of Brian* extras to guard it. But, like all good members of middle management, Clavius soon learns that if you want something (for example, the nipping in the bud of a religious movement) done right, you can't leave your two most bitter employees to do it. And certainly, you can't leave them to pull an all-nighter without at least sending them some pizzas and Diet Cokes.

The only way Clavius can hang on to his job — and possibly his head — is to find out who rolled back the stone and where the missing body of this Yeshua has gone.

What I'm about to say might sound irony-laced (it genuinely isn't!) and flippant (not at all!), but I love love *love* a good Bible movie. I am a complete believer in the Cecil B. DeMille quote "Give me any two pages of the Bible and I'll give you a picture." (Which is itself possibly apocryphal? I can find it on the Internet but I can't find when or where he said it.) Also, I love a good bureaucrat story, something where world-weary middle-manager types are reluctantly dragged into some historic thing and are centrally concerned about covering their backsides and passing the buck elsewhere. *Risen*, delightfully, has both of these things! The only way *Risen* could fit more perfectly into the "Idiosyncratic Movies Made for Amy Diaz" genre is if it also contained a dance battle and a Rodgers & Hammerstein song.

There's a great moment when Pilate and Clavius are talking about the need to find the Nazarene's body, and to find it quick before Caiaphas and his group of troublemakers (I'm paraphrasing) find out about it. "Too late," says Caiaphas, who apparently went to the Comedic Institute of Perfect Timing and Dry Humor, as he walks into Pilate's palace. There is so much of this in *Risen*! At least, in the first part of *Risen*, when Clavius is basically a character from *The Wire* trying to clean up the mistakes made by police headquarters so that everybody can avoid civil unrest.

But then the movie takes a turn. Clavius sees something he can't explain and finds himself tagging along with Yeshua's disciples to Galilee, where they say they will find their resurrected friend. Clavius' actions afterward turn his character from a well-rounded guy with various opinions and desires into sort of a biblical Mary Sue shoehorned into the story. I actually don't blame the movie too much for the ensuing clunkiness. If you decide to put actual Jesus in your story (and not just set it vaguely around the time of the crucifixion), you are limited as to how you can unfold the narrative. There is only so creative you can get with how Peter Parker becomes Spider-Man. Likewise, you can't fiddle with the events of Jesus's life, especially if you want to appeal to people who tend to be strict about their canon. The result, however, is that something that starts off with a *Jesus Christ Superstar*-meets-*The Office* vibe (though, warning to parents: grittier and with more corpses) turns into watery faith oatmeal. And before you send your angry letters, I also genuinely like examinations of faith in the movies. It actually tends to happen more in superhero and sci-fi movies or with a shot of snark, as in the Coen Brothers' *Hail, Caesar!*, so it's interesting when a movie addresses it head-on and without metaphors. But because there is no Gospel of Clavius, the movie seems unsure of how to complete the story of his character in a way that doesn't conflict with basically unchangeable Bible story the movie is weaving itself around.

Considering the constraints on the movie, *Risen* works more than it doesn't. There is intentional humor (I liked a moment when Clavius not so much prays to "the Hebrew God" but tries to offer a bribe) and unintentional humor (oh, poor Tom Felton, you are Draco forever). There is a decent amount of production value and everyone involved gives a solid performance, even if the movie continues the cinematic Bible-story tradition of making everybody essentially a British person with a class-appropriate accent. And, while I'm no biblical scholar, my distant memories of Sunday school suggest that the movie is faithful enough that the Faithful can dig it as much as those who simply like a good "ave, Caesar." **B**

Rated PG-13 for Biblical violence including some disturbing images. Directed by Kevin Reynolds with a screenplay by Kevin Reynolds and Paul Aiello and story by Paul Aiello (hey, where's God's "based on characters from The Bible" *story credit?),* Risen *is an hour and 47 minutes long and distributed by Columbia Pictures.*

AMC Tyngsboro
440 Middlesex St., Tyngsborough, Mass., 978-649-4158.
Chunky's Cinema & Pub
151 Coliseum Ave., Nashua, chunkys.com
Chunky's Cinema & Pub
150 Bridge St., Pelham, 635-7499
Cinemagic Hooksett
1226 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 644-4629, cinemagicmovies.com
Cinemagic Merrimack 12
11 Executive Park Dr., Merrimack, 423-0240, cinemagicmovies.com
Flagship Cinemas Derry
10 Ashleigh Dr., Derry, 437-8800
AMC at The Loop
90 Pleasant Valley St., Methuen, Mass., 978-738-8942
O'Neil Cinema 12
Apple Tree Mall, Londonderry, 434-8633
Regal Concord
282 Loudon Road, Concord, 226-3800
Regal Hooksett 8
100 Technology Drive, Hooksett
Showcase Cinemas Lowell
32 Reiss Ave., Lowell, Mass., 978-551-0055

MOVIES OUTSIDE THE CINEPLEX

RED RIVER THEATRES
11 S. Main St., Concord, 224-4600, redrivertheatres.org
• ***The Lady and the Van*** (PG-13, 2015) Thurs., Feb. 25, at 2:05, 5:35 & 8 p.m.; Fri., Feb. 26, at 1:25, 3:45, 6:15 & 8:35 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 27, at 1:25, 3:45, 6:15 & 8:35 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 28, at 1:25, 3:45 & 6:15 p.m.; Mon., Feb. 29, at 2:05, 5:35 & 8 p.m.; Tues., March 1, at 2:05, 5:35 & 8 p.m.; Wed., March 2, at 2:05, 5:35 & 8 p.m.; Thurs., March 3, at 2:05, 5:35 & 8 p.m.
• ***Brooklyn*** (PG-13, 2015) Thurs., Feb. 25, at 2 & 5:25 p.m.; Fri., Feb. 26, at 12:45 & 6 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 27, at 12:45 & 6 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 28, at 12:45 p.m.; Mon., Feb. 29, at 2 & 5:25 p.m.; Tues., March 1, at 2 & 5:25 p.m.; Wed., March 2, at 2 & 5:25 p.m.; Thurs., March 3, at 2 p.m.
• ***Spotlight*** (R, 2015) Thurs., Feb. 25, at 7:50 p.m.; Fri., Feb. 26, at 3:15 & 8:30 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 27, at 3:15 & 8:30 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 28, at 3:15 p.m.; Mon., Feb. 29, at 7:50 p.m.; Tues., March 1, at 7:50 p.m.; Wed., March 2, at 7:50 p.m.
• ***45 Years*** (R, 2015) Thurs., Feb. 25, at 2:10, 5:30 & 7:30 p.m.; Fri., Feb. 26, at 1 & 5:30 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 27, at 1 & 5:30 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 28, at 12:40 p.m.; Mon., Feb. 29, at 2:10 & 7:45 p.m.; Tues., March 1, at 2:10 & 7:45 p.m.; Wed., March 2, at 2:10 & 7:45 p.m.; Thurs., March 3, at 2:10 p.m.
• ***A War*** (R, 2015) Fri., Feb. 26, at 3 & 7:30 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 27, at 3 & 7:30 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 28, at 2:30 p.m.; Mon., Feb. 29, at 5:30 p.m.; Tues., March 1, at 5:30 p.m.; Wed., March 2, at 5:30 p.m.; Thurs., March 3, at 7 p.m.
• **Red Carpet Party** Sun., Feb. 28, at 7 p.m.

WILTON TOWN HALL
40 Main St., Wilton, 654-3456, wiltontownhalltheatre.com
• ***Spotlight*** (R, 2015) Thurs., Feb. 25, through Thurs., March 3, at 7:30 p.m. Additional screenings Sun., Feb. 28, at 2 & 4:30 p.m.
• ***45 Years*** (R, 2015)Thurs., Feb. 25, through Thurs., March 3, at 7:30 p.m. Additional screenings Sun., Feb. 28, at 2 & 4:30 p.m.
• ***Flying Down to Rio*** (1933) Sat., Feb. 27, at 4:30 p.m.

CAPITOL CENTER FOR THE ARTS
44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com
• **Puccini's *Manon Lescaut*** (Met Live in HD) Mon., March 7, at 6 p.m.

MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY
405 Pine St., Manchester, 624-6550, manchester.lib.nh.us
• ***Pixels*** (PG-13, 2015) Fri., Feb. 26, at 3 p.m.
• ***Tentacles of the North*** (1926) & ***The Phantom Flyer*** (1928) Tues., March 1, at 6 p.m., silent film with musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis
• ***Ricki and the Flash*** (PG-13, 2015) Wed., March 2, at 1 p.m.
• ***Bridge of Spies*** (PG-13, 2015) Fri., March 4, at 3 p.m.

NEW HAMPSHIRE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
31 College Drive, Sweeney Auditorium, 03301, 271-6484, ext. 4115, nhti.edu, nhstudentfilm.com
• ***Beatocello's Umbrella*** (NR, 2013) Fri., March 4, at 7 p.m.

CONCORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
45 Green St., Concord, onconcord.com/library, 225-9670, call 230-3682 for titles
• ***Mockingjay, Part 1*** (PG-13, 2014) Thurs., Feb. 25, at 2 p.m.

CINEMAGIC
1226 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 644-4629, cinemagicmovies.com/loc_Hookset.asp
• ***Imagine Dragons in Concert: Smoke & Mirrors*** Wed., March 2, at 7:30 p.m.

NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY
NPL Theater, 2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4611, nashualibrary.org. Cinema Cabaret screens adult films on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. and the family film series screens on Saturdays at 2 p.m.
• ***Ant-Man*** (PG-13, 2015) Thurs., Feb. 25, at 2 p.m.
• ***Inside Out*** (PG, 2015) Fri., Feb. 26, at 2 p.m.
• ***The Good Dinosaur*** (PG, 2015) Sat., Feb. 27, at 2 p.m.

PETERBOROUGH PLAYERS THEATER
55 Hadley Road, Peterborough, 924-9344, peterboroughplayers.org, showings of The MET: Live in HD, National Theatre Live
• ***As You Like It*** (National Theatre Live) Sun., Feb. 28, at 1 p.m.

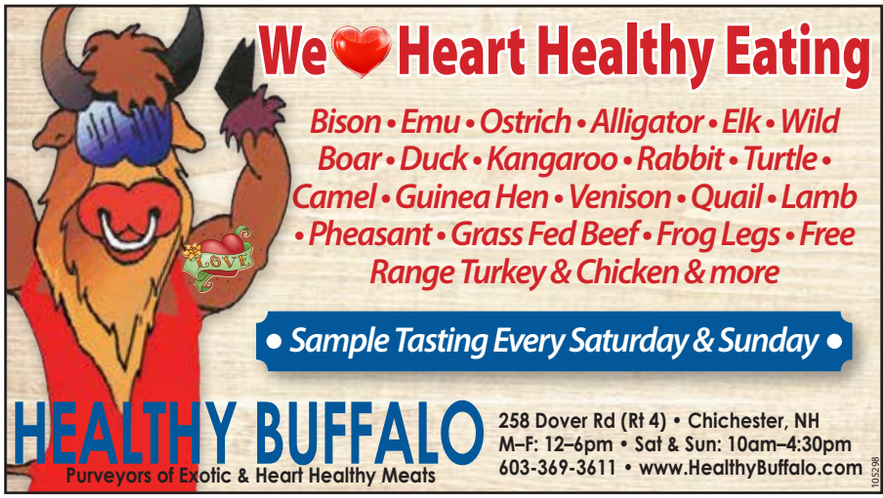
THE MUSIC HALL
28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusichall.org, Some films are screened at Music Hall Loft, 131 Congress St., Portsmouth
• ***Where to Invade Next*** (R, 2015) Thurs., Feb. 25, at 7 p.m.; Fri., Feb. 26, at 7 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 27, at noon; Tues., March 1, at 7 p.m.; Wed., March 2, at 7 p.m.; Thurs., March 3, at 7 p.m.
• ***45 Years*** (R, 2015) Thurs., Feb. 25, at 7 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 27, at 7 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 28, at 3 p.m.; Tues., March 1, at 7 p.m.; Wed., March 2, at 7 p.m.; Thurs., March 3, at 7 p.m.
• ***Food Fight: Inside the Battle for Market Basket*** (documentary) Sat., Feb. 27, at 7 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 28, at 7 p.m.

3S ARTSPACE
319 Vaughan St., Portsmouth, 3sarts.org
• ***Brew Hampshire Movie Night*** (documentary, 2015) Thurs., Feb. 25, at 6 p.m.
• ***In Search of Balance*** (documentary, 2016) Sun., Feb. 28, at 1 p.m.

THE FLYING MONKEY
39 S. Main St., Plymouth, 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com
• ***Conductor 1492*** (1924) Thurs., March 17, at 6:30 p.m., silent film with musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis

Hipposcout

Looking for more book, film and pop culture events? Check out Hippo Scout, available via the Apple App Store, Google Play and online at hipposcout.com



THE ROUND UP

Local music news & events

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **New digs:** A longtime Mill District anchor moves downtown as **Lakes Region Big Band** settles into a weekly residency at the old Brimmer space, now a fine dining stop. The band, including some of the region's best musicians, performs during the last hour of dinner, mixing classic and contemporary jazz with funk and soul, and welcoming dancing throughout the evening. Go Thursday, Feb. 25, at 8:30 p.m. at 1oak on Elm, 1087 Elm St., Manchester. See Facebook.

• **Folk at 45:** The musical team of Rex Fowler and Neal Shulman, better known as **Aztec Two-Step**, celebrates 45 years together with a performance of their sophomore album, *Second Step*. The pair met at a Boston coffeehouse open mike and clicked, taking its name from a Lawrence Ferlinghetti poem. They're considered one of the finest acoustic duos around. Appearing Friday, Feb. 26, at 8 p.m. at Tupelo Music Hall, 2 Young Road, Londonderry. Tickets $45 at tupelohall.com.

• **Fiddle fun:** On St. Patrick's Day, **Cat and the Moon** will hold forth at The Burren, a venerable Irish bar in their Somerville home base. Melding traditional with modern-tinged bluegrass, the Berklee-trained band has appeared on the *Celtic Sojourn* public radio show, and earned a gold medal at the 2014 Fresh Grass Banjo Competition. They appear with acoustic roots septet Uptown Rubdown. Go Saturday, Feb. 27, at 8 p.m. at Riverwalk Café, 35 Railroad Square, Nashua. Tickets $12 at riverwalknashua.com.

• **Brunch songs:** What began with poetry books, open mikes and YouTube videos blossomed for **Jenna Lotti** with her 2013 debut *Tunnel Vision*. The Boston singer-songwriter is nominated for a New England Music Award (2015 Female Performer of the Year), offering a blend of pop, blues and soul that, in the words of one writer, "flirts with both her stirring and sweet sides." Go Sunday, Feb. 28, at 7 p.m. at Union Coffee Co., 42 South St., Milford. Tickets are $11.54 at eventbrite.com.

• **Monday funnies:** A monthly **Free Comedy Showcase** continues at an area comic book store, as Gary Petersen, Chris D and local laugh man Paul Landwehr take over the shop's gaming room for a night of standup. Event creator Ryan Chani hosts, and a few other comics also appear. If that's not enough, there's free pizza — but don't drip grease on the merchandise. Go Monday, Feb. 29, at 8 p.m. at Double Midnight Comics, 245 Maple St., Manchester. See dmcomics.com.

Want more ideas for a fun night out? Check out **Hippo Scout**, available via the Apple App Store, Google Play and online at hipposcout.com.

NITE

Next stop Nashville

Skyler plays one more for the road

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

Perhaps Sir Paul McCartney didn't get any respect at Tyga's Grammy after-party, but for one young musician, he's an inspiration. At age 14, Skyler Clark-Hamel watched the former Beatle on stage at Boston Garden and sensed his future.

"I went, 'That's what I'm going to do, that's going to be my life — a performer,'" Skyler said in recent phone interview. Like Bono, he's known by just his first name.

In middle school, Skyler cobbled together a bedroom studio with money earned from lemonade stands and bake sales. He spent his high school years making records, singing and playing everything on all of them. Most important, the hungry aspirant never missed a chance to be in the spotlight.

"I was in the choir, acted in plays, musicals," he said. "Any way that I could get on stage and perform was what I wanted to do."

This single-mindedness netted him an acceptance letter from Berklee College of Music. Skyler spent a few years there but left before graduating — an oft-told tale among the Boston school's alumni.

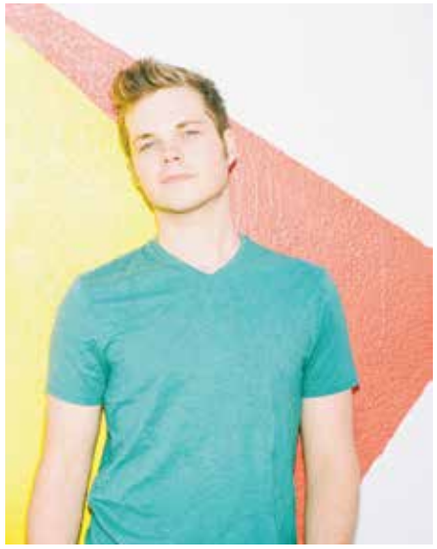
"I had a band, Band of Thieves. We'd just recorded our first record; we were looking at a manager and possibly touring," he said. "All of the signs pointed toward leaving school, getting out there and making it happen."

The path eventually led to Nashville, "where it seemed all my dreams were about to come true," Skyler said.

They did — for a year and half. Then everything crashed to earth.

Skyler

When: Friday, Feb. 26, 5 p.m.
Where: Boston Billiard Club, 55 Northeastern Blvd., Nashua
More: skylertunes.com



Skyler Clark-Hamel. Courtesy photo.

Within six months, the band broke up, management evaporated and Skyler split with his high school sweetheart and moved back to New England. Others in his situation might have surrendered at this point. But Paul's words — "get back to where you once belonged" — rang in his head.

So Skyler worked even harder, crisscrossing the country for over 400 shows. A song written around that time, "Writing on the Wall," became a mission statement: "I'd rather take a chance than take the fall," he sang. He earned a performance on *X Factor*. Though he didn't win the television talent contest, the experience taught him plenty.

"It helped me realize I was capable of playing in front of thousands of people and captivating them," Skyler said of his audition for the series at the Providence, R.I., Dunkin' Donuts Center. "It felt so natural, fun and free to be in front of a crowd like that … a great learning experience. Also, it peeled back the curtain; you realize, oh, yeah, these are just TV shows. They're not make it or break it."

The intervening years produced a pair of albums and a fun side project with Charles Berthoud called Skyler & the Brit. In January, he began releasing outtakes from those sessions on his SoundCloud page, one a week. Lately, however, he's feeling the tug of Music City again. After playing a final show at Boston Billiard Club in Nashua Feb. 26, Skyler will return to Nashville and take another shot.

"I was the first one to head down, then I came back," he said. "Now all these guys I went to school with have moved there and I'm following them."

Singer-songwriter Liz Longley and keyboard player Alex Wright, currently supporting country star Brett Eldredge, are among the Berklee pals he plans to look up.

Now almost 25, he's ready for a new chapter.

"I'm excited about Nashville; everything is happening there, all kinds of music," he said. "I've been Skyler myself for so long that a band like the Eagles — a bunch of singers and songwriters sharing lead, backup and harmonies — I would love to try something like that."

The Nashua show happens one night before he loads up and pulls out of town.

"It's a bar gig, which I haven't done in a number of years. I've stuck to clubs, theaters, but I wanted to play one last show before I moved," he said.

He'll do three sets, from 5 to 8 p.m.

"People can come and go as they want, reminisce with me before I head out."

As he plans his drive south, he knows success won't come easy. It's no longer Macca's music business, after all, but a world of possibilities keeps Skyler energized.

"You can basically write your own rules and make it up as you go," he said. "It's too exhausting to be pessimistic, looking for all the ways it won't work. I spend that energy trying to figure out ways it will."

Night Life

Music, Comedy & Parties

• **AMY BLACK** at Red & Shorty's (4 Paul St., Dover 767-3305) on Thursday, Feb. 25, 8 p.m. $20 - "A powerful, authentic, talented and above all soulful new entry in the rootsy singer/songwriter ranks." American Songwriter.

• **UNDER FIRE W/ GUESTS** at Elks Lodge 720 (120 Daniel Webster Hwy., Nashua) on Saturday, Feb. 27, 6 p.m. $10-$12 - special guests include The Press War, Red Light Overtime, The Banner Year & Acadia

• **SPO: AN ACOUSTIC SET** at Amoskeag Studio (250 Commercial St. 2007, Manchester) on Saturday, Feb. 27, 8 p.m. $15 - Spo has elements of rock, punk and even rap but brings it to life with energy & heart. Hailing from Boston the quartet makes a bold blend of rock that hints upon the past, but lives in the right now.

• **LUCY WAINWRIGHT ROCHE & SUZZY ROCHE** at Red & Shorty's (4 Paul St., Dover 767-3305) on Saturday, Feb. 27, 8 p.m. $40 - Suzzy Roche is a singer/songwriter/performer/author and founding member of the singing group The Roches. Lucy Wainwright Roche was born in NYC into two influential musical families (daughter of Loudon Wainwright III and Suzzy Roche).

• **CABIN FEVAH RELIEVAH** at Bounty Lounge (Holiday Inn, Nashua 594-6421) on Saturday, Feb. 27, 7 p.m. $20 - Casual 6 Band, Small Town Stranded and Fatha Groove play to benefit High Hopes Foundation of NH. Free appetizers.

• **CARNIVAL BALL WITH BAYOU X** at Mole Hill Theatre (789 Gilsum Mine Road, East Alstead 352-2585) on Saturday, Feb. 27, 8 p.m. $10/$20 family - a bit of New Orleans with traditional Cajun & Creole dance music. Parade, bead, costumes encouraged.

• **DOUG TUTTLE W/ HERBCRAFT** at 3S Artspace (319 Vaughan St., Portsmouth 3sarts.org) on Sunday, Feb. 28, 8 p.m. $11 - New Hampshire-native, hot-shot guitar-slinger returns with his second solo record.

• **NEIL YOUNG HUMAN HIGHWAY** at Cinemagic (1226 Hooksett Road, Hooksett) on Monday, Feb. 29, 7:30 p.m. A special, one-night screening of the critically-acclaimed post-apocalyptic musical comedy along with the iconic musician's concert feature Rust Never Sleeps. Plus live Q&A with Cameron Crowe interviewing Young and his eclectic cast.

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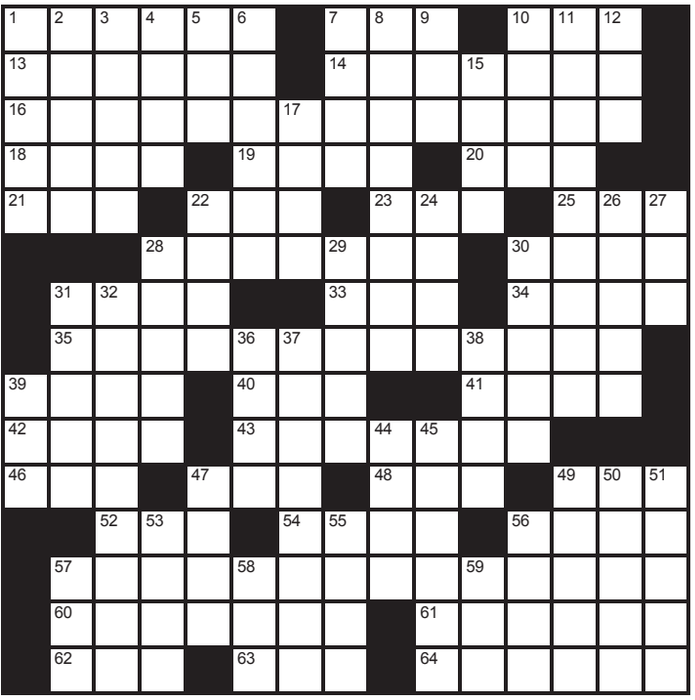
Holiday Puzzles

Across

1. What Salt-N-Pepa will do "real good" (4,2)
7. Meg's sister sidekick
10. 'An Awesome Wave' __-J
13. What children of rich rocker fight over
14. Journalist will do this to a secret
16. '84 Billy Joel doo-wop smash (3,7,4)
18. "Can you see the __ me?" The Who
19. What 'Another One' bit, to Queen
20. J Geils hit from '82 (1,2)
21. 'Use My Third __' Pantera
22. Gooey Collective Soul hit?
23. Classifieds
25. Popular UK mag (abbr)
28. Hans Zimmer soundtrack 'Thin __ __' (3,4)
30. Steve Howe band
31. Modest Mouse 'Fly Trapped In __ __' (1,3)
33. Geffen bought this record company in '03
34. '81 Billy Idol EP '__ Stop'
35. '93 Walkabouts album of a content brain? (9,4)
39. "And __ __, and a two" (1,3)
40. Prominent 80s label
41. Pink Floyd epic off 'Animals'
42. Road stops: Holiday __
43. Guitarist gets them from teacher
46. 'The Road To Hell' Chris
47. R&B's Turner
48. Important time in music
49. Might hail one to get to show
52. Festival narc
54. Guns And Roses '__ N' The Bedouins'
56. Aretha Franklin '__ __, Oh My' (2,2)
57. If you're huge, you'll have this at home office
60. Like where cruise ship bands play
61. Billy Bragg & Wilco 'Mermaid __'
62. Gene Simmons "I'm living in sin, at the Holiday __"
63. Groupie-bird, rock star-__
64. '01 Nick Cave album 'No More Shall __ __' (2,4)

Down

1. Prolific Christian rockers
2. 'Confessions' R&B singer
3. Peter Gabriel hit from '92
4. __ And Oates
5. '04 Norah Jones 'Feels Like Home' song 'What Am __ __ You?' (1,2)
6. What road manager did
7. You pay them, on the way up
8. Rock and roll occurence
9. Pearl Jam 'Riot __'
10. Diehard
11. Citrusy 'Led Zepplin II' song 'The __ __' (5,4)
12. Green Day album after ¡Uno! & ¡Dos!
15. The Knights' Day
17. Neil Diamond 'Flight Of The __'
22. 'Schizophonic' Halliwell
24. Goes with Grateful or Kennedys
26. Charting soundtrack 'Dangerous __'
27. Jimmy __ World
28. Fan does it to album online (w/"it")
29. Adele '__ __ You' (1,4)
30. J Lo song for Spanish goodbye
31. How 'Two Hearts Beat', to U2 (2,3)
32. 'Insensitive' singer (4,5)
36. '76 Boz Scaggs album '__ Degrees'
37. Edgar Winter classic (4,4)
38. 'Give Me All Your Luvin' Madonna album
39. French duo 'Moon Safari' duo
44. Want the best one for a show
45. Allman Bros 'Win, Lose __ __' (2,4)
47. Tesla 'The Way __ __' (2,2)
49. '83 Bowie smash '__ Girl'
50. Rammstein song, also French for love
51. 'Spend My Life With You' R&Ber Eric
53. Frankie Valli 'Walk Like __ __' (1,3)
55. Bad English 'When __ __ You Smile' (1,3)
56. 'Sevas Tra' metal band
57. FM Static 'Take Me __ __ Am' (2,1)
58. Black Sabbath debut album song
59. Yellowcard lives on an 'Ocean' one (abbr)



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I	T	G	O		H	A	L	T		H	A	S	T	E
T	H	O	U		T	R	E	Y		E	L	T	O	N

Foster's Boiler Room
SMUTTY SUPPER
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Thursday, March 3 at 6 p.m.
Five fabulous courses by Chef Amanda Jones paired with fine Smuttynose crafted brews!
SMUTTYNOSE BREWING COMPANY
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TELEPHONE
105152

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228-0180
105003

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MUSIC THIS WEEK

Amherst
LaBelle Winery
345 Rte 101 672-9898

Auburn
Auburn Pitts
167 Rockingham Road
622-6564

Bedford
Bedford Village Inn
2 Olde Bedford Way
472-2001
Copper Door
15 Leavy Drive 488-2677
Shorty's
206 Rte 101 488-5706

Belmont
Lakes Region Casino
1265 Laconia Road
267-7778
Shooters Tavern
Rt. 3 DW Hwy 528-2444

Boscawen
Alan's
133 N. Main St. 753-6631

Bow
Chen Yang Li
520 South St. 228-8508

Bristol
Back Room at the Mill
2 Central St. 744-0405
Purple Pit
28 Central Sq. 744-7800
Rumor Mill
50 S Main St, 217-0971

Concord
Barley House
132 N. Main 228-6363
CC Tomatoes
209 Fisherville Rd
753-4450
Cheers
17 Depot St. 228-0180
Granite
96 Pleasant St. 227-9000
Hermanos
11 Hills Ave. 224-5669
Makris
354 Sheep Davis Road
225-7665
Penuche's Ale House
6 Pleasant St. 228-9833
Pit Road Lounge
388 Loudon Road
226-0533
Red Blazer
72 Manchester St.
224-4101
Tandy's Top Shelf
1 Eagle Sq. 856-7614
True Brew Barista
3 Bicentennial Sq.
225-2776

Contoocook
Covered Bridge
Cedar St. 746-5191
Farmer's Market
896 Main St.
746-3018

Claremont
New Socials
2 Pleasant St. 287-4416

Deerfield
Nine Lions Tavern
4 North Rd 463-7374

Derry
Drae
14 E Broadway #A
216-2713
Halligan Tavern
32 W. Broadway
965-3490

Dover
7th Settlement Brewery
47 Washington St.
373-1001
Asia
42 Third St. 742-9816
Cara Irish Pub
11 Fourth St. 343-4390
Dover Brick House
2 Orchard St. 749-3838
Fury's Publick House
1 Washington St.
617-3633
Sonny's Tavern
83 Washington St.
742-4226
Top of the Chop
1 Orchard St. 740-0006

East Hampstead
Pasta Loft
220 E. Main St. 378-0092

Epping
Holy Grail
64 Main St. 679-9559
Telly's
235 Calef Hwy 679-8225
Tortilla Flat
1-11 Brickyard Sq
734-2725
Popovers
11 Brickyard Sq 734-4724

Epsom
Circle 9 Ranch
39 Windymere 736-9656
Hilltop Pizzeria
1724 Dover Rd 736-0027

Exeter
Pimentos
69 Water St. 583-4501
Shooter's Pub
6 Columbus Ave.
772-3856

Francestown
Toll Booth Tavern
740 2nd NH Tpke
588-1800

Gilford
Ellacoya Barn & Grille
2667 Lakeshore Road
293-8700
Patrick's
18 Weirs Road 293-0841

Goffstown
Village Trestle
25 Main St. 497-8230

Hampton
Ashworth By The Sea
295 Ocean Blvd.
926-6762
Bernie's Beach Bar
73 Ocean Blvd 926-5050
Boardwalk Inn & Cafe
139 Ocean Blvd. 929-7400
Breakers at Ashworth
295 Ocean Blvd. 926-6762
Breakers By the Sea
409 Ocean Blvd 926-7702
Millie's Tavern
17 L St. 967-4777
North Beach Bar & Grille 931 Ocean Blvd.
967-4884
Old Salt
409 Lafayette Rd.
926-8322
Ron's Landing
379 Ocean Blvd 929-2122
Savory Square Bistro
32 Depot Sq 926-2202
Sea Ketch 127 Ocean Blvd. 926-0324
Stacy Jane's
9 Ocean Blvd. 929-9005
The Goat
20 L St. 601-6928
Wally's Pub
144 Ashworth Ave.
926-6954

Hanover
Salt Hill Pub
7 Lebanon St. 676-7855
Canoe Club
27 S. Main St. 643-9660

Henniker
Country Spirit
262 Maple St. 428-7007
Pat's Peak Sled Pub
24 Flander's Road
888-728-7732

Hillsborough
Mama McDonough's
5 Depot St. 680-4148
Tooky Mills
9 Depot St.
464-6700
Turismo
55 Henniker St. 680-4440

Hooksett
Asian Breeze
1328 Hooksett Rd
621-9298
New England's Tap House Grille
1292 Hooksett Rd
782-5137

Hudson
AJ's Sports Bar
11 Tracy Lane 718-1102
Capri Pizza
76 Derry St 880-8676
JD Chaser's
2B Burnham Rd 886-0792
Nan King
222 Central St. 882-1911
SoHo
49 Lowell Rd 889-6889

Laconia
Anthony's Pier
263 Lakeside Ave.
366-5855
Baja Beach Club
89 Lake St. 524-0008
Broken Spoke Saloon
1072 Watson Rd
866-754-2526
Faro Italian Grille 72 Endicott St. 527-8073
Fratello's
799 Union Ave. 528-2022
Holy Grail of the Lakes
12 Veterans Square
737-3000
Margate Resort
76 Lake St. 524-5210
Naswa Resort
1086 Weirs Blvd.
366-4341
Paradise Beach Club
322 Lakeside Ave.
366-2665
Patio Garden
Lakeside Ave.
Pitman's Freight Room
94 New Salem St.
527-0043
Tower Hill Tavern
264 Lakeside Ave.
366-9100
Weirs Beach Lobster Pound
72 Endicott St. 366-2255

Lebanon
Salt Hill Pub
2 West Park St. 448-4532

Londonderry
Coach Stop Tavern
176 Mammoth Rd
437-2022
Stumble Inn
20 Rockingham Rd
432-3210
Whippersnappers
44 Nashua Rd 434-2660

Loudon
Hungry Buffalo
58 Rte 129 798-3737

Manchester
A&E Cafe 1000 Elm St. 578-3338
Amoskeag Studio 250 Commercial St.
315-9320
Breezeway Pub
14 Pearl St. 621-9111
British Beer Company
1071 S. Willow St.
232-0677
Cactus Jack's
782 South Willow St.
627-8600
Central Ale House
23 Central St. 660-2241
City Sports Grille
216 Maple St. 625-9656
Club ManchVegas
50 Old Granite St.
222-1677
Crazy Camel Hookah and Cigar Lounge
245 Maple St. 518-5273
Derryfield Country Club
625 Mammoth Rd
623-2880
Whiskey 20
20 Old Granite St.
641-2583
Fratello's
155 Dow St. 624-2022
Ignite Bar & Grille
100 Hanover St. 494-6225
Imago Dei
123 Hanove St.
Jewel
61 Canal St. 836-1152
Karma Hookah & Cigar Bar
1077 Elm St. 647-6653
KC's Rib Shack
837 Second St. 627-RIBS
Midnight Rodeo (Yard)
1211 S. Mammoth Rd
623-3545
Milly's Tavern
500 Commercial St.
625-4444
Modern Gypsy
383 Chestnut st.
Murphy's Taproom
494 Elm St. 644-3535
N'awlins Grille
860 Elm St. 606-2488
Penuche's
96 Hanover St. 626-9830
Portland Pie Company
786 Elm St. 622-7437
Salona Bar & Grill
128 Maple St.
624-4020
Shaskeen
909 Elm St. 625-0246
Shorty's
1050 Bicentennial Drive
625-1730
South Side Tavern
1279 S Willow St.
935-9947
Strange Brew Tavern
88 Market St. 666-4292
Thrifty's Soundstage
1015 Candia Road
603-518-5413
Tin Roof Tavern
333 Valley St. 792-1110
Wild Rover
21 Kosciuszko St.
669-7722

Mason
Marty's Driving Range
96 Old Turnpike Rd
878-1324

Meredith
Giuseppe's Ristorante
312 DW Hwy 279-3313

Merrimack
Homestead
641 DW Hwy 429-2022
Jade Dragon
515 DW Hwy 424-2280
Pacific Fusion
356 DW Hwy 424-6320
Tortilla Flat
594 Daniel Webster Hwy 262-1693

Milford
Aden China
437 Nashua St.
672-2388
Chapanga's
168 Elm St. 249-5214
Clark's on the Corner
40 Nashua St. 769-3119
J's Tavern
63 Union Square 554-1433
Lefty's Lanes
244 Elm St. 554-8300
Pasta Loft
241 Union Square
672-2270
Shaka's Bar & Grill
11 Wilton Rd 554-1224
Tiebreakers at Hampshire Hills
50 Emerson Rd 673-7123
Union Coffee Co.
42 South St. 554-8879
Valentino's
28 Jones Rd. 672-2333

Moultonborough
Castle in the Clouds
455 Old Mountain Road
478-5900

Nashua
110 Grill
27 Trafalgar Sq. 943-7443
5 Dragons
29 Railroad Sq. 578-0702
Arena
53 High St. 881-9060
Boston Billiard Club
55 Northeastern Blvd.
943-5630
Burton's Grill
310 Daniel Webster Highway
888-4880
Country Tavern
452 Amherst St. 889-5871
Dolly Shakers
38 East Hollis St.
577-1718
Fody's Tavern
9 Clinton St. 577-9015
Fratello's Italian Grille
194 Main St.
889-2022
Haluwa Lounge
Nashua Mall 883-6662
Killarney's Irish Pub
9 Northeastern Blvd.
888-1551
O'Shea's
449 Amherst St. 943-7089
Peddler's Daughter
48 Main St. 821-7535
Portland Pie Company
14 Railroad Sq 882-7437
Riverwalk
35 Railroad Sq 578-0200
Shorty's
48 Gusabel Ave. 882-4070
Stella Blu
70 E. Pearl St. 578-5557
Thirsty Turtle
8 Temple St. 402-4136

New Boston
Molly's Tavern
35 Mont Vernon Rd
487-2011

Newbury
Goosefeathers Pub
Mt. Sunapee 763-3500
Salt Hill Pub
1407 Rt 103 763-2667

New Castle
Wentworth By The Sea
588 Wentworth Rd
422-7322

Thursday, Feb. 25

Bedford
Copper Door: Marc Apostolides

Boscawen
Alan's: John Pratte

Concord
Granite: CJ Poole & The Sophisticated Approach
Hermanos: Richard Gardzina
Penuche's Ale House: Grebes

Derry
Drae: Triana Wilson

Dover
7th Settlement: George Woods
Cara: Bluegrass w/ Steve Roy
Fury's: Erin's Guild

Epping
Telly's: Justin Cohn

Exeter
Station 19: Thursday Night Live

Gilford
Patrick's: Doug Thompson

Hampton
CR's: Dennis Coraccio

Hanover
Canoe Club: John Lovejoy
Salt hill: Irish, Randy Miller/ Roger Kahle

Lebanon
Salt hill: Celtic Open Session

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Karen Grenier

Manchester
1oak on Elm: Lakes Region Big Band
Central Ale: Jonny Friday Blues
City Sports Grille: DJ Dave
Fratello's: Jazz Night
Funktion: Alli Beaudry
Karma: DJ Midas, SP1 & Reed on drums
Queen's: Moose In The Marsh
Shaskeen: Cole Robbie Band
Shorty's: Ryan Williamson
Strange Brew: Roy Sludge Trio
Whiskey's 20: DJs Shawn White/ Ryan Nichols/Mike Mazz
Wild Rover: Mystic River Duo

Merrimack
Homestead: Kim Riley

Milford
Aden China: DJ Brian
Chapanga's: Joe McDonald

Nashua
Arena: College night, DJ Hizzy
Country Tavern: Rudi Glenn
Fratello's: RC Thomas
Riverwalk: Riverwalk Bluegrass Allstars

Newmarket
Riverworks: Jim Dozet
Stone Church: Irish Music w/ Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki & Jim Prendergast

Peterborough
Harlow's: Bluegrass Night

Plaistow
Racks: Rock jam, Dave Thompson

Portsmouth
Fat Belly's: DJ Flex
Press Room: Ryan Halliburton

New London
Flying Goose
40 Andover Road
526-6899

Newington
Paddy's
27 International Drive
430-9450

Newmarket
Riverworks
164 Main St. 659-6119
Stone Church
5 Granite St. 659-7700
Three Chimneys
17 Newmarket Rd.
868-7800

Newport
Salt Hill Pub
58 Main St. 863-7774

Peterborough
Harlow's Pub
3 School St. 924-6365

Pelham
Shooters
116 Bridge St. 635-3577

Pittsfield
Molly's Tavern
32 Main St. 487-2011

Plaistow
Crow's Nest
181 Plaistow Road
974-1686
Racks Bar & Grill
20 Plaistow Road
974-2406

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid Island
409 The Hill 427-2583
British Beer Company
103 Hanover St. 501-0515
Cafe Nostimo
72 Mirona Rd. 436-3100
Demeters Steakhouse
3612 Lafayette Rd.
766-0001
Dolphin Striker
15 Bow St. 431-5222
Fat Belly's
2 Bow St. 610-4227
Grill 28
200 Grafton Road
433-1331
Hilton Garden Inn
100 High St. 431-1499
Lazy Jacks
58 Ceres St. 294-0111
Martingale Wharf
99 Bow St. 431-0901
Oar House
55 Ceres St.
436-4025
Portsmouth Book & Bar
40 Pleasant St. 427-9197
Portsmouth Gas Light
64 Market St. 430-9122
Press Room
77 Daniel St. 431-5186
Red Door
107 State St. 373-6827
Redhook Brewery
1 Redhook Way
430-8600
Ri Ra Irish Pub
22 Market Sq 319-1680
Rudi's
20 High St. 430-7834
Rusty Hammer
49 Pleasant St. 319-6981
Thirsty Moose
21 Congress St.
427-8645

Raymond
Cork n' Keg
4 Essex Drive 244-1573

Rochester
Gary's
38 Milton Rd 335-4279
Governor's Inn
78 Wakefield St.
332-0107
Lilac City Grille
103 N. Main St. 332-3984
Revolution Tap Room
61 N Main St. 244-3022

Radloff's
38 N. Main St. 948-1073
Smokey's Tavern
11 Farmington 330-3100

Salem
Barking Bean
163 Main St. 458-2885
Black Water Grill
43 Pelham Rd 328-9013
Jocelyn's Lounge
355 S Broadway
870-0045
Sayde's Restaurant
136 Cluff Crossing
890-1032

Seabrook
Castaways
209 Ocean Blvd
760-7500
Chop Shop
920 Lafayette Rd
760-7706

Somersworth
Hideout Grill at the Oaks
100 Hide Away Place
692-6257
Kelley's Row
417 Route 108
692-2200
Old Rail Pizza Co.
6 Main St. 841-7152

Sunapee
One Mile West Tavern
6 Brook Road 863-7500
Sunapee Coffee House
Rte. 11 Lower Main St.
229-1859

Suncook
Olympus Pizza
42 Allenstwon Rd.
485-5288

Tilton
Black Swan Inn
354 W Main St.
286-4524

Warner
Local
2 E Main St. 456-6066

Weare
Stark House Tavern
487 S Stark Hwy
529-7747

West Lebanon
Seven Barrel Brewery
5 Airport Rd 298-5566

Windham
Common Man
88 Range Rd 898-0088
Jonathon's Lounge
Park Place Lanes,
Route 28 800-892-0568
Red's Tavern
22 Haverhill Dr.
437-7251

Red Door: Green Lion Crew
Thirsty Moose: John David & the Funeral Puppets

Weare
Stark House: Lisa Guyer Solo

Windham
Common Man: Chris Lester

Friday, Feb. 26

Belmont
Lakes Region Casino: DJ Mark

Boscawen
Alan's: Corey Brackett

Claremont
New Socials: Sarah Blacker

Concord
Makris: Wise Guy
Pit Road Lounge: 'Nuff Said
Red Blazer: John Anthony
Tandy's: DJ Iceman Streetz (105.5 JYY)
True Brew: Bangkok Disco

Contoocook
Covered Bridge: Joe Leary

Derry
Drae: Alan Roux
Hilltop Spot: Rob Benton

Dover
Cara: Club night, DJ Shawnny O
Dover Brickhouse: Camarojuana
Fury's: Lovewhip
Top of the Chop: Funkadelic Fridays

Epping
Holy Grail: Jim Dozet
Telly's: Clint LaPointe

Epsom
Hilltop Pizzeria: Shameless

Gilford
Patrick's: Holly Furlone
Schuster's: Eric Grant Band

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Sweet Rock

Hampton
Savory Square: Joel Cage

Hanover
Canoe Club: Joseph Stallsmith
Jesse's: Chill
Salt Hill Pub: Ida Mae Specker

Henniker
Sled Pub: Delanie Pickering

Hillsborough
Turismo: Great Stone Face

Hooksett
Asian Breeze: Off Duty Angels

Laconia
Pitman's Freight Room: Bruce Marshall & Chuck Farrell Duo w/ Jon Butcher

Lebanon
Salt Hill Pub: Wherehouse

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Kieran McNally

Manchester
1oak on Elm: Queen City Soul
City Sports Grille: DJ Dave
Derryfield: Among The Living
Foundry: Justin Cohn
Fratello's: Steve Sibulkin
Karma: Belly Dancer
ManchVegas: Shana Stack Band
Murphy's: Jamsterdam
N'awlins: BrickYard Blues
Penuche's: Chromatropic/ Neutron Collision
Queen's Pub: Stray Dog Band
Shaskeen: Rockspring
Strange Brew: Love Dogs
Tin Roof: Fridays With Frydae
Whiskey's 20: DJs Jason Spivak & Sammy Smoove
Wild Rover: Stu & Chip Duo

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Vin#-WVWYH63B13E019773
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Vin#-4T1BE32K03U670294
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Merrimack
Homestead: Jeff Mrozek

Milford
Aden China: DJ Brian
J's Tavern: Just Jimmy
Pasta Loft: Boneshakers
Tiebreakers: Rich Kumpu

Nashua
Boston Billiard Club: Skyler
Country Tavern: Marc Apostolides
Dolly Shakers: Sonic Blitz
Fody's: Daemon Chili
Fratello's: Chris Cavanaugh
Haluwa: Rock City
O'Shea's: Olde Salt
Peddler's Daughter: Ripcord
Riverwalk: Stash Wyslouch/ Four Bridges
Stella Blu: Groove Cats

Newbury
Salt Hill Pub: Brett Wilson

Newmarket
Riverworks: Elijah Clark

Newmarket
Stone Church: Harsh Armadillo with Relative Souls

Newport
Salt Hill Pub: Jim Hollis

Peterborough
Harlow's: DeadBeat

Plaistow
Racks: Stomping Grounds/True Dilemma/4 Point Restraints

Portsmouth
Birdseye: Francesca Blanchard
Demeters: Sharon Jones
Dolphin Striker: Rhythm Method
Fat Belly's: DJ Cootz
Martingale Wharf: D Comp
Portsmouth Book & Bar: Erica Brown and Bluegrass Connection
Press Room: Vinyl Instinct
Red Door: Tom Bartlett
Ri Ra: 51Soul
Thirsty Moose: Cornerstone

Rochester
Radloff's: Dancing Madly Backwards Duo

Seabrook
Chop Shop: American Ride

Warner
The Local: Jake Davis Solo

Weare
Stark House Tavern: Hallorans

Saturday, Feb. 27

Belmont
LR Casino: Thirty 6 Red

Boscawen
Alan's: Those Guys

Concord
Hermanos: Matt Poirier
Penuche's: Cole Robbie Band
Pit Road Lounge: Street Legal
Tandy's: DJ Iceman Streetz
True Brew: For the Future with Tuna Fish Discrepancy

Contoocook
Covered Bridge: Jimmy Howe

Derry
Drae: Peter Higgons
Hilltop Spot: Kieran McNally

Dover
Cara: Club night, DJ Shawnny O
Dover Brickhouse: Hip Hop Dance Party
Fury's: Bella's Bartok

Epping
Holy Grail: Aaron Denny & Co.
Telly's: Brian House
Tortilla Flat: RC Thomas

Gilford
Patrick's: Phil & Janet

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Monkeys With Hammers

Hampton
Savory Square: Carl Reppucci Jazz Trio

Hanover
Canoe Club: Ted Mortimer & Michael Parker

Henniker
Sled Pub: The McMurphy's

Hillsborough
Turismo: Country Night

Hooksett
Tap House Grille: First Chair to Last Call

Laconia
Pitman's Freight Room: Sugar Ray and The Bluetones

Lebanon
Salt Hill Pub: Ali T.

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Marc Apostolides

Manchester
City Sports Grille: Vital Signs
Derryfield: The Slakas
Fratello's: Tim Gurshin
Karma: Alan Roux
ManchVegas: Jimmy's Down
Midnight Rodeo: Country Mile
Murphy's Taproom: Mugsy
N'awlins: Queen City Soul
Penuche's: Lichen
Queen's Pub: King Chrome
Shaskeen: The Shift
Strange Brew: Kan-Tu Blues
Whiskey's 20: DJ Hizzy/Shawn White
Wild Rover: Jimmy & Marcelle

Merrimack
Homestead: Lachlan Maclearn

Milford
Aden China: DJ Brian
J's Tavern: Sons of Thunder
Pasta Loft: Haywire Band

Nashua
Boston Billiard: DJ Anthem Throwback
Country Tavern: Jeff Mrozek
Dolly Shakers: Casual Gravity
Fody's: Soul Income
Fratello's: Amanda McCarthy
Haluwa: Rock City
O'Shea's: 3 Old Guys
Peddler's Daughter: Southern City Band
Riverwalk Cafe: Cat and the Moon w. Upstate Rubdown
Stella Blu: Rumblefish

Newbury
Goosefeathers: Marc Wydom
Salt Hill Pub: The Dobros

Newmarket
Stone Church: The Jauntee with The Southern Belles When

Newport
Salt Hill: Joe Mitchell Project

Peterborough
Harlow's: Brett Wilson

Plaistow
Crow's Nest: Among the Living

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid: Rock Spring

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Thursday, Feb. 25

Portsmouth
Birdseye Lounge: Jono Zalay, Troy Penwell, Dan Boulger

Friday, Feb. 26

Amherst
Amherst Country Club: Mike McCarthy

Portsmouth
3S Artspace: Dorks in Dungeons

Saturday, Feb. 27

Concord
Capitol Center: Mike Donovan, Mark Scalia, Mike Murray, Paul Landwehr

Derry
Hilltop Spot: Steve Guilmette

Manchester
Headliners: Kyle Crawford

Monday, Feb. 29

Concord
Penuche's: Punchlines

Manchester
Double Midnight Comics: Gary Petersen, Chris D, Paul Landwehr

Tuesday, March 1

Derry
Hilltop Spot: Alana Susko Comedy on Purpose

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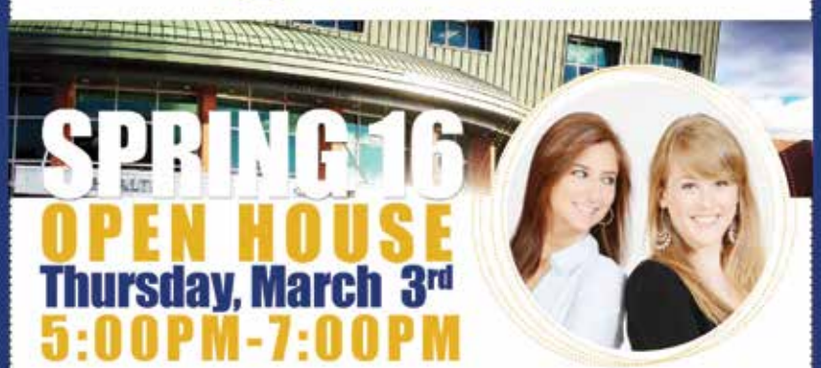

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NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Demeters: Sounds of Sinatra
Dolphin Striker: Deep Fried Blues
Fat Belly's: DJ Provo
Hilton Garden: Great Bay Sailor
Martingale: Josh Cramoy Duo
Portsmouth Book & Bar: Roy Sludge Trio
Press Room: Royal Hammer / Raging Brass Reggae Band
Red Door: Ryan Obermiller
Ri Ra: Sweetbeats
Thirsty Moose: Pop Disaster
White Heron: Poor Howard: Acoustic Blues

Raymond
Cork n Keg: Brendon Lepere

Rochester
Smokey's: Pete Peterson

Salem
Barking Bean: Dave LaCroix

Jocelyn's: The Deviant

Seabrook
Chop Shop: Tigerlily

Weare
Stark House Tavern: Will Hatch

Sunday, Feb. 28

Bedford
Copper Door: Marc Apostolides

Bristol
Purple Pit: The Shift

Concord
Hermanos: John Franzosa

Dover
Cara: Irish Session w/ Carol Coronis & Ramona Connelly
Dover Brickhouse: Jazz Brunch
Sonny's: Sonny's Jazz

Gilford
Schuster's: Brunch - Piano w/ Bob Kropel

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Blues Jam

Hanover
Canoe Club: Bruce Gregor

Hillsborough
Mama McDonough's: Brad Bosse

Manchester
Queen's Pub: Scott King
Shaskeen: Rap night, Industry night
Strange Brew: Jam

Meredith
Giuseppe's: Open Stage with Lou Porrazzo

Milford
Union Coffee: Jenna Lotti

Nashua
Burton's Grill: Aaron Chase
Riverwalk Cafe: Seth Burkhart 4/Open Celtic Sessions

Newbury
Salt Hill Pub: Josh Gerrish

Newmarket
Stone Church: Bluegrass Bureaux Cats

Portsmouth
Dolphin Striker: Chuck N John
Press Room: Sunday Night Jazz Series ft. Ted Casher and Jeff Stout Quintet
Red Door: Strange Strings Showcase
Rudi's: Jazz Brunch

Rochester
Lilac City Grille: Brunch Music at 9:30am
Radloff's: James McGarvey

Warner
Schoodacs: Katy White

Monday, Feb. 29

Concord
Hermanos: John Franzosa

Hanover
Canoe Club: Marko the Magician
Salt Hill Pub: Hootenanny

Manchester
Central Ale House: Jonny Friday Duo
Fratello's: Rob Wolfe or Phil Jacques

Merrimack
Homestead: Chris Cavanaugh

Nashua
Dolly Shakers: Monday's Muse w Lisa Guyer
Fratello's Italian Grille: Justin Cohn

Newmarket
Stone Church: Blues Jam w/ Wild Eagles Blues Band

Portsmouth
Dolphin Striker: Old School
Press Room: Kendall Moore Trio
Red Door: Hush Hush Sweet Harlot
Ri Ra: Oran Mor

Tuesday, March 1

Dover
Fury's: Tim Theriault and Friends
Sonny's: Soggy Po' Boys

Gilford
Schuster's: Jazz Duo

Hanover
Canoe Club: Ted Mortimer

Manchester
Fratello's: Kim Riley
Shaskeen: James Keyes
Strange Brew: David Rousseau
Whiskey's 20: Sammy Smoove & DJ Gera

Merrimack
Homestead: Paul Luff

Nashua
Fratello's: Brad Bosse

Newmarket
Stone Church: Bluegrass Jam w/ Dave Talmage

Portsmouth
Press Room: Jazz Jam w/ Larry Garland & Friends

Wednesday, March 2

Dover
Fury's: Cloud Nine

Gilford
Patrick's: DJ Megan
Schuster's: Dan Carter

Manchester
Fratello's: RC Thomas
Tin Roof: DJ Vicious
Wild Rover: Country Music

Merrimack
Homestead: Kelsie Hinds
Tortilla Flat: Brad Bosse

Nashua
Country Tavern: Charlie Christos
Fratello's: Phil Jacques

Newmarket
Stone Church: StrangeCreek Battle of the Bands Round 1

Plaistow
Racks: DJ Sensations

Portsmouth
Demeters: Pete Peterson
Press Room: Calen Perkins
Red Door: Red On Red w/ Evaredy (Ladies Night)
Ri Ra: Erin's Guild

Rochester
Lilac City Grille: Tim Theriault - Ladies Night
Radloff's: Tony Santesse - Ladies Night

GET THE CROWDS AT YOUR GIG

Want to get your show listed in the Music This Week? Let us know all about your upcoming show, comedy show, open mike night or multi-band event by sending all the information to **music@hippopress.com**. Send information by 9 a.m. on Friday to have the event considered for the next Thursday's paper.

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JONESIN' CROSSWORDS BY MATT JONES

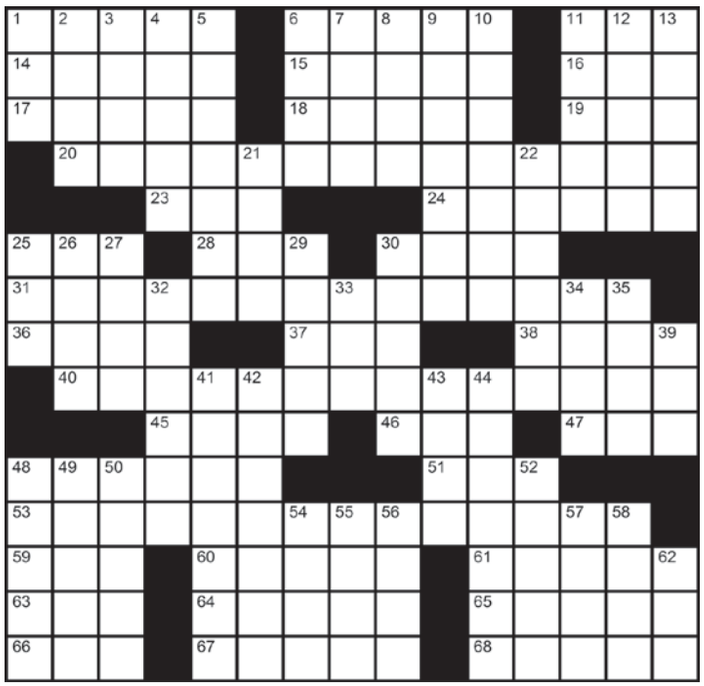
"All Day" — not just the three-letter abbreviation

Across

1 Humor, casually
6 Build ___ (bird's job)
11 Tree stuff
14 Sans-serif Windows typeface
15 Wild card
16 Prepare to feather
17 Ernest or Julio of winemaking
18 Stadium
19 Undivided
20 Workweek closers that are a hit with everyone?
23 Green beginning
24 Some journalism
25 Concert souvenir
28 Just fine
30 Opportunity, in metaphor
31 Particle from a weekend coffee server?
36 Conservatory focus
37 Snooze
38 Shoot the breeze
40 Jennings sends packages when there's no mail service?
45 One of five lakes
46 Wouldn't stand for it?
47 Mighty tree
48 ___-Lytton Fiction Contest (competition to write terrible prose)
51 ___ Vegans (some Nevada residents)
53 Door opener that only works when the weekend's over?
59 Ashcroft and Holder, for short
60 Cedars-___ Medical Center
61 "Hand over the money!"
63 "Chi-Raq" director
64 Say "prob'ly," for instance
65 Wombs
66 Drug for Hunter S. Thompson
67 Coup ___
68 Labwork

Down

1 Fall behind
2 Part of UAE
3 Organizer
4 Not genuine
5 Hobbyist's racer
6 Not quite shut
7 Seaweed, or a phrase of denial
8 ___ out a living
9 Elizabeth Warren, e.g.
10 Martin killed in 2012
11 Rock
12 Root beer brand
13 Weightlifting exercise
21 Word after fast or (more recently) slow
22 Fortify
25 Bag-screening gp.
26 Dumbo's claim to fame
27 Part of Caesar's last question
29 West of award show antics
30 Tricks
32 ___ & World Report (defunct print magazine)
33 Himalayan beast
34 Where Buckeyes hail from
35 "Sideways" valley
39 Vowelless reproach
41 Decent, so to speak
42 Unit for a frequent flier
43 "The Lion King" role
44 Remain in place
48 Hoops
49 Pushes
50 Exposed to light
52 Take to the rink
54 "I'll get right ___!"
55 Nothin'
56 Nonfiction bestseller topic, often
57 "___ Wide Shut"
58 Nomad's tent
62 Greek letters



2/18

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SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from songs written or co-written by Josh Groban, born Feb. 27, 1981.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) *Sing to me one song for joy and one for redemption / And whatever is in between that I call mine / With the street lamp light to illuminate the gray / And the bells of New York City calling me to stay — "Bells of New York City"* There's going to be singing in the city.

Aries (March 21 – April 19) *Lately I've been the quiet one / Waiting searching the lines of the songs you played for me / Sailing into the misty air / Fading bound for I don't know where / When I'm there I'll see / And if I walk away / Please follow me — "If I Walk Away"* Are you waiting or are you sailing? You need to make up your mind.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) *Coffee's on the table and I / Just can't seem to wake up / This aching heart of mine / One more day without you and I'll be fine / You know I'm good for waiting but waiting's wasted time — "Happy in My Heartache"* You're going to want extra coffee.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) *Love only knows if we'll give in to fear and choose life under cover / She said love only knows if it's special enough then we'll choose one another / We'll choose each other / You were the secret I loved to keep / The name I would only sing in my sleep — "Love Only Knows"* Oh, love knows, alright. Just ask it, already.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) *Innocence behind his broken expression / He's a child of mercy he's our unlearned lesson / And he's trying to wake up / From this wilderness his world has now become / He's reaching out to those he's running from — "War at Home"* You keep doing that, you're going to trip over yourself.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) *I am closing up my window / Till I see a blue horizon / And the quiet calm of love will fly my way — "False Alarms"* Just make sure you open the window before love flies into it.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) *Fire / Under the burning red sun / Wake up the heartless sky / And show some love — "Below the Line"* It is a good week to show love. Not that they all aren't.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) *Wicked winds are blowing through the hall / Those old familiar faces are clinging to the walls / I know it's cold but I can't feel at all — "Happy in My Heartache"* Bring a jacket.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) *And now I know / Just what we're fighting for / How long to go / Until we ask for more — "Below the Line"* You've already got the information you need.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) *And it's (one step forward and two steps back) / This is all who are marching / (one step forward two steps back) / This is young and old / (one step forward two steps back) / Through the void of silence / You are not alone — "War at Home"* If you find you're moving backward, turn around.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) *Far across this red horizon / I am walking down the line / I am picking up the pieces / That this storm has left behind — "False Alarms"* You've got a mess to clean up. Recruit some helpers.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) *Wake up wake up the sun cannot wait for long / Reach out reach out before it fades away / You will find the warmth when you surrender / Smile into the fear and let it play — "Brave"* Try getting up earlier.

NITE SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

			7		9	6		
6							4	
4	8				2	1		
		2			6			
			1		3			
			5			9		
		6	9				3	2
	5							8
		7	4		1			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/25

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SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. *Last week's puzzle answers are below*

2/18

8	7	6	2	1	3	9	5	4
4	1	5	9	7	6	8	2	3
3	9	2	8	5	4	6	1	7
1	2	9	3	6	8	7	4	5
5	6	3	4	2	7	1	9	8
7	4	8	5	9	1	3	6	2
6	8	4	1	3	2	5	7	9
9	3	7	6	4	5	2	8	1
2	5	1	7	8	9	4	3	6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/18

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Garnet Rogers

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPHERD

Military intelligence

The head of U.S. Navy intelligence has for more than two years been prohibited from accessing classified information (as the Pentagon disclosed to The Washington Post in January). Vice Admiral Ted Branch came under investigation in 2013 in a corruption scandal involving a foreign defense contractor and various Navy personnel and might have been suspended from all duties except that, given the political gridlock in Washington, no consensus candidate has emerged. No charges have been filed against Branch, but before he enters any room at the Pentagon, classified material must be stowed away.

Recurring themes

• Yet another woman gave birth to her own granddaughter in January. Tracey Thompson, 54, offered to be the surrogate mother for her fertility-challenged daughter, Kelley, and delivered a 6-pound, 11-ounce girl at The Medical Center in Plano, Texas.

• After notable successes in the United States, Latin America claimed in December its first transgender pregnancy after Ecuadorean Fernando Machado announced he was expecting a child with his partner Diane Rodriguez. Fernando used to be "Maria"; Diane used to be "Luis"; and though both undergo hormone therapy, they have retained their birth organs.

• Overexcited police departments occasionally feel the need to safeguard towns by zealous enforcement of anti-gambling laws. In November, police in Altamonte Springs, Florida, raided the Escondido Community Clubhouse, formally shutting down the retirement village's games of bingo, bunko, penny poker and most controversially the weekly sessions of the culturally venerated mahjong. Although none of the games is illegal under state law, advertising for-money games is, and the notices in the Heritage Florida Jewish News were such attention-getters that the pots for the games often grew to exceed the $10 legal maximum. (Given mahjong's sociological significance, news of the bust was even reported in Jerusalem's Times of Israel.)

• On the heels of a similar program in Richmond, California, Washington, D.C.'s D.C. Council authorized funding in January to pay stipends to notorious criminals if they stop committing crimes. Police would identify up to 50 residents likely to violently offend again in 2016 and offer them periodic cash payments plus special training and educational benefits as long as they stay out of trouble. Officials in Richmond (once overwhelmed by gun deaths) say their program, commenced almost 10 years ago, has produced a 76-percent drop in gun-related crime.

• About a decade ago, several fast-food restaurants were plagued by a prank phone-caller, posing as law enforcement requesting investigative help, asking managers to strip-search employees for "contraband" and to describe the searches in real time to the caller. (A suspect was arrested, and the calls stopped.) Managerial judgment was also on display at a Morro Bay, California, Burger King in January when a prank caller somehow convinced BK employees to begin shattering the store's windows because of a purported "gas leak." Several windows were smashed in, and an investigation of the call is ongoing.

• In January, 15-year-old Anthony Ruelas, trying to rescue a classmate gasping from an asthma attack, became the latest casualty in public schools' relentless insistence on "zero tolerance" of any deviation from rules. Gateway Middle School in Killeen, Texas, suspended Ruelas for two days for what others called his "heroic" assistance in gathering the girl in his arms and taking her to the nurse's office while the teacher, following "procedure," waited passively for a nurse to email instructions. (Ruelas had defied the teacher, declaring, "(F-word) that we ain't got time to wait for no email from the nurse.") The school district's superintendent later cited a federal law that he interpreted as justifying the procedure.

Awkward

In January, Israeli television journalist Eitam Lachover became the latest to be injured in a high-profile test of a "protective" vest when he volunteered to be stabbed on camera for a news segment. Vest company officials' faces turned quickly sour as the blade penetrated the vest (though the wound was described as "light").

Prank fail

Will Lombardi, 19, was charged with arson in Northampton, Massachusetts, in January after he acknowledged that "probably" he was the one who left a flaming box of excrement on the front porch of the family with whose daughter he was feuding. The fire was supposed to alarm the victim, who would try to stomp it out, thus spreading the feces and soiling the stomper's shoes. In this case, however, the fire had spread a bit. (Bonus: Lombardi's box selection was a used mailer with Lombardi's name and address still readable.)

Least competent criminals

In January, a 27-year-old man in North Pole, Alaska, became the most recent forced to flee a crime scene on foot because he had locked his keys inside the getaway car. He was identified by surveillance video outside the two businesses he burglarized, but he was still at large.

Also in January, David Boulet, in Tacoma, Washington, became the most recent to haplessly try to steal a police car. As officers chased him on an earlier charge, Boulet spotted a parked, marked squad car (with lights flashing), but apparently thought, in the night's darkness, that the car was momentarily unoccupied. He climbed in and landed on the lap of a Tacoma police sergeant in the front seat.

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AZTEC TWO-STEP

Fri., Feb. 26
8:00 p.m.
$30-$45
RS-Theater

RICHARD SHINDELL

Thurs., March 3
8:00 p.m.
$30
RS-Tables

JESSE COOK

Thurs., March 10
8:00 p.m.
$45-$55
RS-Theater

NIGHT OF COMEDY

Featuring Mike Hanley, Will Noonan, and Anthony Scibelli

Fri, March 11
8:00 p.m.
$18-$23
RS-Tables

THE ALTERNATE ROUTES

Sat., March 12
8:00 p.m.
$25
GA

GLENGARRY BHOYS

Sun., March 13
7:00 p.m.
$25
GA

DERVISH

Wed., March 16
8:00 p.m.
$30-$40
RS-Theater

CHAD PERRONE

Sat., March 19
8:00 p.m.
$20-$25
RS-Theater

JOHN 5 & THE CREATURES

Sun., March 20
7:00 p.m.
$30-$40
RS-Theater

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